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INSIDE SCOOP

• Evil Ballot Measure... 3
• Obituary..... 3

EDITOR'S DESK

• Coming Out Is passe... 4

NATIONAL NEWS

LOCAL NEWS

• Dancesport..... 6
• Valley Knights..... 7

FOOD & WINE

• UE Sports Grill..... 8
• Beth's Cookies..... 8

ENTERTAINMENT

• Ask Mother..... 10
• Tarotscopes..... 10
• Crossword..... 10
• Horoscopes..... 10

THEATRE

• Hot Summer Nights... 11

POLITICS & LAW

• Sam's Rant..... 12
• Lambda Letters..... 12
• Tsien's Take..... 13
• Gay Marriage..... 13

FEATURE

• Pride Guide..... 14 & 15

MUSIC

• Atlanticquity..... 16
• Girlyman..... 16
• Biffi Crayone..... 16

GRUENWEDEL

• Mad Hot Ballroom..... 17

SWANNER & JUDD

• Movies for June..... 18

BOOKS

• Bella Books..... 20
• Mary K. Stroube..... 21

HIV NEWSLINE

• Health News..... 22

FEATURE

• NorCal Challenge.... 23

SPORTS

• Monarchs News..... 24

BUSINESS

• Classifieds..... 25
• Business Directory... 26
• Calendars..... 27

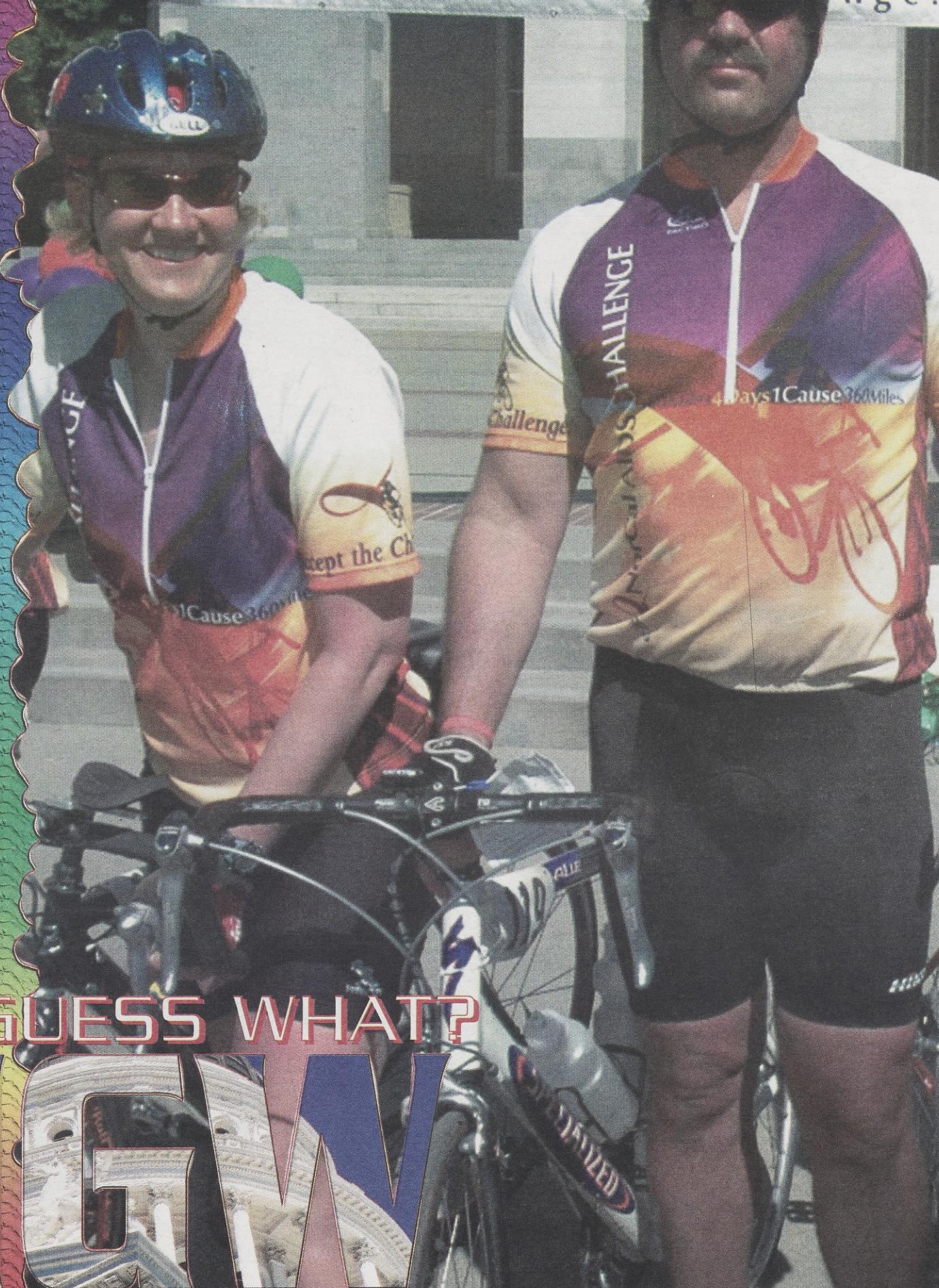
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PUBLISHER
JEFFRY A. DAVIS

PUBLISHER'S ASSISTANTS
LARRY MCFALL
TRISTAN ROBERTS

EDITOR/DESIGNER
MATTHEW BURLINGAME

WEBMASTER
MAREK STRZODKA

CALENDAR EDITOR
PHILLIP SAMANIEGO

ARTISTS
AJ QUADROS
JERRY KING
BRYAN BROWN
WRITERS

STEFAN GRUENWEDEL
TOM SWANNER
BRIAN JUDD
KATRINA TORRES
DAVID WARNESS
STEVEN WILLEY
MICHAEL SHANAHAN

MIKE WALKER
DEBORAH FRANK
LARRY MCFALL
SONYA COX
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MERLE EXIT
JESSICA RABBIT

JENN THORNTON
PAULINE ROBERTS
PHILLIP SAMANIEGO
JEFFRY DAVIS

MATTHEW BURLINGAME
PHOTOGRAPHERS
MIKE COOK
JEFFRY DAVIS
DEBORAH GOLDSTEIN

CHRIS HORRELL
PETER JAMES
LARRY MCFALL
ROCKY RAYBON
ED KELLEY

CURTIS HAGEN
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Your Life Is Being Targeted

By
Laurie
McBride
MGW STAFF



It doesn't matter if you think you are "political" or not. You are a target. Your family is a target. The families and relationships of every gay or lesbian you know is a target. And for good measure, every single mom and single dad and "blended" family is a target.

A ballot measure to undo domestic partnerships as well as limit marriage to one-man-one-woman has been introduced. This measure, as written, is by far the most draconian of any introduced so far anywhere in the United States. In pure foulness, it outdoes Texas and Alabama combined.

Would it limit marriage? Yes. Would it completely gut domestic partnerships? Oh yes. Gone would be any and all protections. Oh wait...they would allow us to visit a dying loved one in the hospital. Out of over 1000 rights and responsibilities we get hospital visitation. Everything else would be gone.

This measure goes further though. It changes the definition of "best interest of the child." Under the new definition the court would be required to give preference to living situations where there was both a man and a woman present. So in custody disputes you know who would lose. The gay or lesbian parent...the single parent...in case after

case the one person who really does care about the best interest of the child.

In trying to squeeze the world into a one-size-fits-all moral straightjacket, it would give the heave-ho to all but the married mommy and daddy and 2.2 children scenario.

Insane, you say? Well, of course. The measure was introduced by The Campaign for California Families and Senator Ray Haynes. They believe that none of the rights, responsibilities, duties and obligations of marriage should be granted to any other type of relationship. Period.

If it passes in California this ballot initiative would undo 30 years worth of legislative work...and decades of struggling for our full equality as citizens of this state and country.

Couldn't happen here? Think again Mildred. It could. The Inquisition is back. McCarthyism on steroids. Only this time the target isn't communists...it's you and me.

Reaction from our local political leaders was swift. Dan Roth, President of Sacramento Stonewall Democrats, said, "The authors of this frightening ballot proposition want to enshrine their bigotry in the state's constitution. We have to mobilize quickly against this extremist attack on our families...on our lives."

Stonewall Democrats will be joining with other organizations throughout the state to put together an effective campaign to fight this new extremist attack.

The ballot measure goes first to the State Attorney General's

Office where they give it a Title and Summary. Then the extremists can hit the malls and the churches and start gathering signatures.

They want a vote on their bigotry. They want to talk about saving marriage while they pander to hatred and promote hardship for hundreds of thousands of families in California.

Sam Catalano, Executive Director of the Sacramento County Democratic Coordinated Campaign added, "They want to slam the closet door in our face. I don't know about you, but I'm not going back in. I'm going to stand up and fight. I'm going to ask everyone I know to fight with me. Enough."

To keep tabs on this piece of indecency, check the websites:

Stonewall Democrats

www.sacstonewall.org

Equality California

www.eqca.org

National Center for Lesbian Rights

www.nclrights.org

Lambda Legal

www.lambdalegal.org

Stay tuned. This is going to be a bumpy ride. ▼

Laurie McBride is Political Action Chair of Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club, the Club That Gets Things Done. She is also Co-Chair of the National Stonewall Democrats. She thought she had seen it all, but this latest rabid right atrocity might just take the cake.

In Memory...

WRITTEN BY DAVE SHOREY OF THE SVL

Robert Davolt, Mr. Wisconsin Leather/Levi Daddy '94-95, San Francisco Leather Daddy XIX, Leather Contingent Coordinator in the SF Pride Parade, author and friend died at Davies Hospital the night of Monday, May 18, 2005 of cancer. He will be loved and missed by many within the Leather Community. Our condolences to Joe Granese, his lover.

Sacramento & Northern California Leatherboy 2002 David Shorey, wrote, "I know that our world is a better place because of him being in it. We all have faults and no person is perfect, but in the end, I hope our lives are judged on the impact we had on others and the contributions we made to our society. In that vain, Robert Davolt will be judged with high regards."

The dinosaur is extinct...but its legacy will live forever. ▼

And now for something completely different...
Pride Fair
June 11, 2005



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Coming Out Stories Are Sooo Passe

By
MATTHEW
BURLINGAME
MGW EDITOR



Every year around pride I am struck with the dichotomy of feeling both excitement and dread. Excitement to be around people who aren't judging me on my sexuality, and to see friends I haven't seen for some time who make the trip up each year. And then there is the dread from wrangling volunteers, making sure everything goes smoothly and of course running into the people you try to avoid the other 364 days of the year.

But inevitably I find myself looking inward and wondering what exactly "gay pride" is and if I am full of it—so to speak. Each year I pull out my archive of articles and read through the various coming out articles I've written and the emails and letters people have

"This year, instead of another tired "what pride means to me" article, I've decided to share a coming out piece I wrote several years ago for my college paper. Only this time, I am not editing out the parts that I was asked to take out because "the alumni supporters" may not feel that's appropriate to print."

sent in response to them. Some telling me of their own coming out experiences, others thanking me for inspiring them to come out, others just thanking me for sharing my story.

This year, instead of another tired "what pride means to me" article, I've decided to share a

coming out piece I wrote several years ago for my college paper. Only this time, I am not editing out the parts that I was asked to take out because "the alumni supporters" may not feel that's appropriate to print.

* * *

I grew up knowing I was different, with no attraction to the girls in my classes. Somehow, even at that young age, I knew I had to make sure no one ever found out. In junior high, at the age of 13, I discovered a name for what I was. It was given to me from the kids at my school. I was a "faggot." Without any provocation, without any outward signs that I was different from any of them, they knew—and they never let me forget.

One afternoon, after the principal watched several of the boys shove me around, hearing the names they called me, I was summoned to his office. He sat, perched on the corner of the desk Ward Cleaver-like while dispensing his worldly wisdom upon his sons. His sharp eyes glared down at me, and there was a suffocating pause before he began.

"You need to stop acting queer, Matthew. It would be in your best interest that if you are that way, you make sure no one ever finds out. It's not a good thing to be."

Terror consumed me, my mind went numb, and I walked back to my class in a daze. As I walked down the hall, I shook uncontrollably and wondered what was the quickest and most painless way to die.

I lived the following years in constant fear. My grades plummeted, and I pulled back from

everyone and everything. God was exacting his revenge on faggots: AIDS. With lack of proper public information, particularly to we "innocents," I could only decipher that this "gay cancer" struck without rhyme or reason and it only affected "those evil fags."

I was certain that any day I would start showing signs of AIDS and I went for weeks trying to suppress any "queer thoughts," hoping I could escape the fate of the plague victims the news showed every night in its "special reports."

When I turned 16, I snuck a copy of an adult gay magazine through a checkstand at Tower Books and learned the mechanics of gay sex. Those abundant and descriptive details began to weave themselves through my writing as I began to explore the

burn in hell because you didn't put a stop to this now?"

In a moment of self-loathing, I grabbed the magazine I had kept well hidden and tore it into count-

This year, however, as I struggle with the closing of so many of our resources and institutions, and see kids coming out younger and younger, and seeing ourselves represented in mainstream entertainment more and more, I somehow feel that my experiences aren't as "inspiring"—for lack of a better word—than they were to readers several years ago.

It makes me wonder...are coming out stories are becoming passé? Are these stories which define our births into faggotry quickly becoming nothing but outdated dinner conversation?

less shreds before burying it deep in the outside trash can. I was never going to be a "faggot" again.

Almost a year after I had doubled my efforts to fit into the heterosexual world, I walked into my bedroom to find a relative who had come to stay with us after years away sitting on my bed. He held in his hand a letter I had been writing to a pen pal who had come out to me several weeks

before. In the letter, which I had written and rewritten, I had begun to open up to my pen pal. Once again, my written words were betraying me.

He began to question me, his voice filled with contempt and disgust. I

was in shock. I felt as though I had walked into a dream. It took me a few moments to feel his weight on top of me, and I gasped for the air knocked out of me as I hit the floor. The inquisition ended as he raped me.

For many people, an experience like this would have driven them into a permanently locked closet or a graveyard. For me, it was the beginning of my self-empowerment.

Over the next few weeks as I pondered the irony of being raped by a man who hated me because I preferred to have sex with men, I came out to most of my friends. Two of them came out to me. Many I never heard from again.

From there I took bolder and bolder steps to come out of the closet and hang a big rainbow flag over its door. As I read true tales of other people's triumphs and tragedies and began interact-

ing with people in the queer community, I developed a deep connection with these people—my people. I started to grow and to heal. From my despair came rage, from rage came strength. And from strength I grew to lose the feeling of constant fear I had always lived under and find what I believe most of us feel is a sense of pride.

• • •
That's my story, in all its ugliness. With one side

note that my mom is now one of my strongest supporters and has almost as many gay friends as I do.

This year, however, as I struggle with the closing of so many of our resources and institutions, and see kids coming out younger and younger, and seeing ourselves represented in mainstream entertainment more and more, I somehow feel that my experiences aren't as "inspiring"—for lack of a better word—than they were to readers several years ago.

It makes me wonder...are coming out stories are becoming passé? Are these stories which define our births into faggotry quickly becoming nothing but outdated dinner conversation?

It used to be that one of the first questions that was asked of a gay person to another gay person was, "When did you come out?" It was preceded by "When Did you know?" and was usually followed by either, "Wow, that's brave," or "Well, I won't tell anyone." Now, it's barely even a question anyone bothers asking. It is assumed we are out, it is assumed it was no big deal, and no one is interested in the details.

The stories we want to hear now are those of couples who are now considered legally married. How did s/he propose? Where's the ring? Where are you registered? Are you planning on kids?

Today's gay cocktail party is as boring as a right-wing ladies mixer on mother-daughter day.

If coming out stories are a thing of the past, I am OK with that. After all, it means we're making progress and kids today aren't having to face the hell many of us did while growing up. So, take my stories. But leave my pride. ▼

DEAR EDITOR

Lambda Players of Sacramento would like to take a moment to thank all the sponsors and generous people who have donated to them over the past year.

It is with support of individuals and businesses such as these that have given this community their own theatre, and keeps its doors open.

Thank you to: Mark Hoffman and Clayton Whitehead of

Sports Leisure Vacations, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Jeff Davis & MGW Newspaper, Valley Rainbow Pages, Sacramento Valley Leathermen, Matthew Burlingame, Tom Swanner, Uptown Studios, Robert Granger, George Hansen III, Brian Judd, Larry McFall, Steve Buri, Susan Soesbe, Derrick Lawson, Roy Adams, Leonard Keyes, Sir Speedy, Kevin Leonard & Roy Semerdjian,

Gary Miller, Jolene Jessie & Dianne Robins, Lucien L. Agosta, PH. D., Tom Harrison, Carol Couk and Kurt Kurtis.

We would also like to thank our newest sponsor for our Hot Summer Nights program, Interactive Male, for their generous sponsorship and support of our company and mission. Thank you all!

Tom Swanner
Lambda Players President

GAY-NUPTIAL FOES TO PUT AMENDMENT ON ARIZONA BALLOT

Conservative social activists launched a drive to put a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages on the November 2006 ballot. The petition filed with the Secretary of State's Office would define marriage as between a man and woman and would prevent judges from ruling otherwise. Supporters of the initiative need 183,917 signatures to place it on the Nov. 7, 2006, ballot. The measure is expected to have a substantial effect on Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano's 2006 re-election bid, potentially drawing thousands of conservative Republican voters to the polls. advertisement

Eleven states passed similar measures in 2004. In the crucial presidential swing state of Ohio, the ballot measure's wide margin of victory was believed to have helped President Bush defeat Sen. John Kerry.

LEGAL CHALLENGE TO S.A. GAY WEDDING

South Africa is one of the world's most liberal countries in terms of gay rights

South Africa's highest court has begun hearing a legal challenge to last year's ruling which appeared to recognize same-sex weddings. The case has been brought by the home affairs

department, which argues that the Supreme Court of Appeal did not have the right to allow gay weddings.

It ruled in favor of a lesbian couple's argument that the current law discriminated against homosexuals.

MTV'S GAY CHANNEL, ADVOCATE PUBLISHER ON SAME TEAM

MTV Networks' new gay-themed channel Logo has joined forces with the publisher of the Advocate, Out and the Out Traveler to create TV specials and a headline news service online.

Logo's exclusive multi-year partnership with LPI Media will see both companies developing at least five programs a year based on original content from the LPI stable, with the first special set to air in the fourth quarter.

In addition, the daily online news service, set to launch at <http://www.LOGOonline.com> in the fourth quarter, will feature content from the Advocate's editorial staff. Logo is set to launch June 30 with about 10 million U.S. subscribers.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE ON "WILL & GRACE"

Justin Timberlake will have a recurring part as "Jack's bad boyfriend" on "Will & Grace" next year for three episodes, Digital

Spy reported last Friday. Justin Timberlake, Jack's new boy toy on 'Will & Grace' next year

Apparently, despite a shrinking audience, the show's producers haven't figured out that fans are tired of the endless parade of celebrity walk-ons.

No reports have surfaced yet on how Timberlake's girlfriend, Cameron Diaz, feels about him playing gay for pay.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS PROTEST SAUDI EMBASSY

Approximately 30 lesbian and gay activists outside the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London at lunchtime today. The London protest was one of hundreds of protests that took place in more than 40 countries to mark the first International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO).

"Saudi Arabia is one of the world's most homophobic countries. Gay people are routinely arrested, jailed, tortured, flogged and sometimes executed," said protest co-organizer Brett Lock of OutRage!

"We want EU and UN sanctions against the Saudi dictatorship. King Fahd should be arrested, taken to the International Criminal Court, and tried on charges of torture and murder. Britain and the EU should halt all trade with the murderous, homophobic Saudi tyranny," he charged.

"In March, 105 men were arrested after allegedly attending a gay wedding. Thirty-five have been sentenced to floggings. Some are being punished with up to 2000 lashes, which can be fatal. All 105 men have been sentenced to a year's jail, where they are likely to suffer torture and rape.

APA EXPECTED TO ENDORSE GAY UNIONS

The nation's leading psychiatric group will take up the issue of gay marriage at its annual confer-

ence this weekend as its members debate whether to support the legal recognition of same-sex marriage and civil unions.

The American Psychiatry Association's assembly will consider a proposal at its annual meeting in Atlanta on Sunday to amend the group's official position statement on gay marriage.

The new proposal goes beyond its 2000 statement supporting same-sex civil unions by saying that legal recognition of such unions would ensure that legal rights afforded to heterosexual civil unions - such as health insurance, pension payments and death benefits - would be guaranteed for same-sex couples.

"This is an important issue for the mental health of gay and lesbian persons as well as ... a civil rights issue in terms of preventing discrimination," said Dr. Francis Lu, a professor of clinical psychiatry at the University of California-San Francisco who has led the association's committee studying the issue.

POLL SHOWS HUGE SUPPORT FOR GAYS TO SERVE

A poll published in Boston Globe reports 79% of Americans believe gays should be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military. "Large majorities of Republicans, regular chuchgoers, and (even) people with negative attitudes toward gays think gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military," the Globe reports.

The Globe poll follows other recent polls showing growing support for allowing gays to serve openly. Recent Gallup polls have reported between 65% and 79% support for lifting the military's gay ban. The Annenberg Survey reported in October that half of junior enlisted personnel and their families support allowing gays to serve.

"Across every political spectrum, and by ever-increasing majorities, Americans favor allowing gays to serve our country."

said C. Dixon Osburn, Executive Director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "National security is neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue. Americans do not support a policy that places discrimination above military readiness. Our homeland is made more secure, in both the blue states and the red, when qualified, capable Americans are allowed to serve without regard to sexual orientation.

Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle should heed the counsel of the American people and repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' once and for all."

ANTI-GAY STRATEGY BACKFIRED

Mayoral races in Redondo Beach this year were between two Republican candidates. In the final weeks of the campaign, a conservative group called the California Republican Assembly sent out a campaign mailer attacking candidate Mike Gin for accepting contributions from Hollywood Park Casino and "national liberal gay rights groups."

The effort apparently backfired. Gin, a former city councilman, won by a large percentage of the vote. The city has a population of 65,000. Gin is openly gay and a member of the Log Cabin Republicans, California's gay GOP group.

Gin's opponent condemned the mailers, which he said were sent without his knowledge.

California Republican Assembly President Mike Spence said his organization was concerned that gay Republicans such as Gin were trying to increase their influence in the party so they could reshape the GOP platform on such issues as gay marriage.

In November, the Log Cabin Republicans fielded a gay candidate in an unsuccessful attempt to oust state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, an openly gay Democrat. The group said then it hoped to gain a greater voice in state party politics by electing more gay Republicans. ▼



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**CHANGE IS IN THE AIR
 BREATHE DEEP
 JUNE 11, 2005**

Pioneering Same-Sex California Dancesport Championships in San Francisco

By RICKY
ANAYA
MGW/STAFF



There was a time "in the 40's and 50's in England where they ran same sex dancing because it helped people get better at their dancing and understand the other persons part. As the sexual revolution put sexuality on the forefront; people worried more about perception and we lost a lot of community because of that" says Richard Lamberty who helped to coordinate the April Follies California Dancesport Championships for same-sex couples held at the Metronome Ballroom in San Francisco on April 30th, 2005.

About seven years ago, Richard and Tom Slater discovered same sex dancing when it was offered for the first time at the Gay Games in Amsterdam.

Although they were not prepared, Richard and Tom competed together and walked away with a bronze medal. Several other dancers from the San Francisco bay area did very well also.

Seven years ago and even still true today, for the most part, there are very few venues for same sex and reverse role dancers to learn, dance and compete. But, with the hard work and efforts of instructors and stu-

dents alike, a same sex dance curriculum was developed through the Metronome Ballroom where students could learn in a same sex and reverse role supportive and safe environment.

Richard wanted to clarify that same-sex dancing has nothing to do with sex and is all about dancing. For many same gender couples, it is simply an expression to music danced with someone they like and care about while for other couples it can be a physical and intimate relationship just like in the straight world. About half of the participants and supporters are LGBT and the other half are straight.

The April Follies Championships was developed as a venue where same sex and reverse role

and it is part of a greater effort to build a stronger same-sex dance community in the Bay Area, California,

and United States. Therefore it was structured to be flexible in design, affordable for all, and inclusive of International and American styles of dance.

Dances included; American Smooth events such as Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Viennese Waltz.

American Rhythm dance events including; Rumba, Cha Cha, Bolero, Mambo, and Swing. For International Style and Latin the dances included Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz, Samba, Paso Doble, Jive, and Quickstep.

Argentine Tango, Country

group, followed by an all women's Tango performance troupe named Tango Con-Fusion, and for the grand finale, we were treated to Tom Slates (World Champion dancer) same-sex performance with dance partner Michael Kozma.

"Same-sex dancing has nothing to do with sex and is all about dancing. For many same gender couples, it is simply an expression to music danced with someone they like and care about while for other couples it can be a physical and intimate relationship just like in the straight world. About half of the participants and supporters are LGBT and the other half are straight."

— Richard Lamberty

Western Waltz, Two Step, and Line Dancing, Lindy, and West Coast Swing were not left out either. Although Meringue was not on the ballot, because of audience interest and a flexible design, a competition was allowed and turned up at least six same-sex couples.

In between the various competitions, there were open dances where anyone could get up and participate. This allowed for competitors to warm up and audience members to get in on the dancing as well. After the days competitions were over, the audience was treated to three very special dance performances each worthy of standing ovations. The first was the East Bay Women's Cha Cha

Richard adds, "We would like to have more open format events like this one 1 to 3 times a year and we would also like to have one highly structured pre-registered large event and invite the Europeans at least once a year...and as many informal ones as we can get, it would be wonderful to have a quarterly competition for the greater bay area and California. We see this as a wonderful opportunity for female dance teachers to learn to teach, and where they can go and dance with their students too."

"It is interesting to note that in the Dutch court system, who governs Dancesport, recently ruled that ballroom dancing competitions have to allow same gender couples under the same rules as any other couple. This is significant as it was independent of any lawsuit. The Dutch foresaw the direction of Dancesport and pretty much ruled fair is fair because you cannot exclude people on the basis of gender." ▼

Two contestants strut their stuff for the camera at the Same-Sex California Dancesport Championships in San Francisco.

Photo by Ricky Anaya

dancers could dance and compete locally without having to travel to Europe to do so and also be in an environment that was safe and free of homophobia. In addi-

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OPEN DAILY
10AM-10PM

By ED KELLEY/MGW STAFF

Gavie von
Entertainer
Sacramento

The Open Book is where the gay community has looked to for videos books and a place to meet comfortably. However, many of us in the community have felt that the Open Book has not maintained a close allegiance with the community that has continually supported them.

Jennifer Barth
Customer Service
Sacramento

I wish I could buy it and keep it open. I would leave it the way it has always been. I buy all my books there. I will miss it a lot.

Gina Givogni
Bartender
Sacramento

It's a shame. Open book is one of the last places in the capital to hang out in a non-alcoholic, healthy environment. Hopefully this being published will spread the word that we can save the bookstore.

Monica Lucas
Management
Sacramento

I'm pretty disappointed in the closing of the bookstore. I really enjoyed the guest book authors. It was a great social gathering spot for the community!

JG Gonsavles
Interim Director
Sacramento

We are very sad about the closing of the Open Book. We wish Ron and Larry well and thank them for all they've done.

Do you have a question for speak out? Email it to us at MGWeditor@mgnews.com

How Do you feel About The Open Book Closing?

Valley Knights Motorcycle Club Events for June

By MICHAEL SHANAHAN
MGW/STAFF

In June, the Valley Knights Motorcycle Club will participate in back to back events.

On Saturday June 11, members and friends will ride in Sacramento's Pride Parade, and on June 17-19. There will be a long scenic weekend ride dubbed the "Gypsy Run."

Valley Knights president Gerard Wing says, "In the Sacramento parade, we will be in front of the marchers on foot, so we won't have to crawl through the entire parade at idle. anyone who has ridden their motorcycle in the San Francisco parade knows how fun this will be, riding through the parade and being cheered by all your friends!"

After the parade, motorcycle riders can go directly to the Pride Festival.

The Valley Knights invite all motorcyclists to join them June 11, 8-11:30am. Contact Gerard at (916) 455-6540 or at gerard-wing@netzero.net and he will try to include you in the parade count.

The Gypsy Run, will allow members and friends to spend the weekend riding together slow and easy, maybe hitting a couple hot springs along the way, and spending one night in a no-host hotel and the second night camping out. The motorcycles will head up to Reno (Boontown) on Friday via Hwy 70, which is a very scenic ride.

Bikers who can't get the day off on Friday can meet the group in Reno on Saturday morning. The group will leave Reno about 9:30am, head south and ride to Markleeville then continue along the back side of the Sierra, cross over Sonora Pass via Hwy 108 and camp/crash in Sonora at a friends place named Pecker Haven. It should be a fun weekend that will include a lot of riding...for those interested in that sort of thing. If you want to join the group contact the Valley Knights road captain Rey Sanders at shovelhd80@yahoo.com.



The Valley Knights Motorcycle Club was founded in 1976 as a non-profit recreational organization for gay motorcyclists to ride with other gay motorcyclists.

The fraternity has always been a close group, and members and friends have owned all makes of motorcycles and have come from all walks of life. Membership consists solely of motorcycle owners, but motorcycle ownership is not required for those who wish to attend club events.

The club's Yahoo Group can be accessed from the club website at www.ValleyKnights.org for the latest ride information and pictures.

Those who are interested in becoming a Valley Knight should contact any of the club members, or call Mike at (916) 455-6540. The club welcomes non-members to all open meetings, club rides & events. ▼

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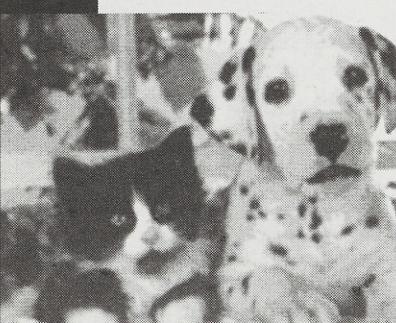
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"Yeew-ee!": UE Sports & Grill

By KATRINA TORRES/MGW STAFF



Patrons and crew enjoy an evening at the UE Sports Grill

Photo by Katrina Torres/MGW Staff

UE. Weird name, but I kinda liked it. It reminded me of that Cajun cook on TV. You know who I mean, that wildly funny Louisiana (pronounced loo-zee-anna) swamp swimmer who said "awn-yons" instead of onions, and was always hollering "yeew-ee" and "I garantee"! Justin Wilson was his name, I believe. I probably never would have noticed it on my own, but when a couple of co-workers told me about the brand new Cajun place, UE Sports & Grill, and how good the food was, I thought I'd pop in and scope out the menu.

I had to pass by on my way home anyway, and since I'm essentially too lazy and too busy to cook these days, it seemed like a good place to head for a late lunch on a short Friday. And I hadn't enjoyed my favorite Cajun dish since she moved to San Francisco, so it was time to put a little spice in my life, Cajun style.

Getting to the parking lot was a little tricky, as you have to drive slow and keep a good lookout so you don't miss the driveway and have to make 2 U-turns to get back to it again. It also helps to know what you're looking for. UE Sports & Grill is tucked on the south side of Florin Road, halfway between the Church's Fried chicken and the U-Haul Rental yard, right under the red and yellow Autobahn sign. There's a concrete divider in the center of

Florin Road, so it's best to approach it going east to west. If you miss it, it's worth making the 2 U-turns to get back. If you hate to maneuver through traffic and you're driving east to west, just park in the light rail parking lot, walk half a block to the cross-

and beans cooked with big chunks of smoky meat for flavor. The meal came with a choice of garden or Caesar salad, and I went with the latter. Good choice. It was delicious, crisp and fresh, with wonderful croutons and an equally good dressing served on the side. The

server/greeter was moving at more of a slow, southern pace than a confirmed California girl like me could fully appreciate, but the beer was ice cold, the

atmosphere friendly and comfortable, and she had a sweet smile. The hot link was juicy and tender, with just a brush of sweet, smoky barbecue sauce to set it off, and the beans were rich and savory and not too salty.

The menu offerings looked pretty good, a lot like my ex-mom in law would make (my, I do miss that woman, but I couldn't convince her that the divorce didn't include her). I chose between the Boiled Crawfish Feast, a Maine Lobster Tail for only \$19.99, Crawfish Etouffee, Catfish or Red Snapper Nuggets, Fried Okra, Steaks, Creole Crab Cakes, Snow Crab and BBQ Oysters, to mention a few. UE also offers beef and pork ribs, chicken, gumbo, lots of hot and cold sandwiches, mussels, various fish fillets, shrimp, and an intriguing dish called Blackened Shrimp Stroganoff.

walk, and cross Florin. Do not, I repeat, DO NOT, try to run the gauntlet. I could tell you stories.

I could smell the ribs cooking as I pulled into the parking lot, which put me in the mood for a fat, juicy hot link, as it always does.

The neon beverage signs in the windows assured me that there would be a nice selection of fire extinguishers to wash it down with. With ample dining space, white linen tablecloths that belie the casual atmosphere, and a full libation station in the sports bar area, there's a place to park your wagon (or wheelchair) no matter how you're dressed or why you're there.

Four color TV's stay on top of the sports scene, and there's a good view to at least one of them from every table.

My lunch that day was the Sliced Hot Link, served with rice,

ed Mozzarella sticks, with an order of onion rings on the side. The generously proportioned and tasty Trio was garnished with celery and carrot sticks and ranch dressing and was presented with a "Corona six-pack" of catsup, salt & pepper, hot sauce, mustard and more catsup. The perfect accompaniment, a bucket of iced Corona's, was also offered at a very reasonable price, but it being the dog-tired tail end of a long week, we decided to play it safe and just have one.

I went back a couple of nights later and tried the Bacon Burger. It came with a choice of American or Swiss cheese and crisp, seasoned crinkle-cut fries. My first two experiences were good, but this time I hit the jackpot, folks. My meal was obviously prepared by someone who not only knew how to cook, but also really enjoyed doing so. The juicy, meaty burger had a spicy, flavorful nip to it, and was so big I couldn't get my mouth open wide enough to get an "official bite". It was like biting into a Dagwood Sandwich, only better. Served on a sesame seed bun, it was garnished with fat, ripe slices of tomato, crisp lettuce, thin slices of red onion, crunchy dill pickles and thick strips of crisp, smoky bacon.

I'd asked for extra pickles, and they gave me a generous side of the thickest, crispiest and most tasty dill slices I can ever remember eating. With pepperoncini, fresh carrot and celery sticks, and a yummy ranch dressing on the side, I can truly tell you that this is the most delicious, best-made burger in the entire Florin Road Corridor.

The cook came out a few minutes later to enjoy his lunch break with a burger of his own, and confirmed what a true food lover he is. It warms my heart to see a cook who loves his own food.

They say that love is usually just a matter of convenience and proximity, and maybe they have a point; but even if I didn't have to drive by UE Sports & Grill every day, I'd go anyway. Justin Wilson would be proud. I "garantee"! ▼

UE Sports & Grill is open 7 days for lunch between 11 am and 4 pm, dinner from 5 pm till 11:30 pm, and breakfast on the weekends from 8am till 11 am.

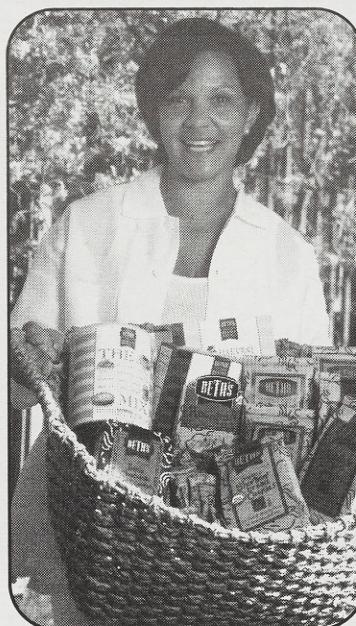
Vegan Cookies a Hit

By MATTHEW BURLINGAME
MGW EDITOR

Beth began baking at age 5, in her backyard. There she set up her first kitchen which consisted of her mother's discarded cake pans and bowls and empty flavoring extract bottles filled with water. She spent hours making fancy desserts out of the various types of mud until she was nine years old and was finally allowed to bake by herself.

At Stanford University in Florence, she spent a year in college learning a deeper appreciation of food. She traveled around Europe exploring and sampling exciting new foods. "The first time I found myself in a patisserie in Paris, I thought I had died and gone to heaven," says Beth.

After attending Stanford University and looking for a job, her friend Judy Rodgers, now owner and chef at Zuni Café in San Francisco, suggested she take a pecan tarte, one of Beth's specialties, to Mark Miller who had just opened his restaurant "The Fourth Street Grill in Berkeley". "He loved it and decided to order them for the restaurant, even though everything he served was made 'in house.' I made hundreds of pecan tarte in my very tiny kitchen and when Mark asked if I



wanted the job of pastry chef, I happily accepted. My kitchen was getting too crowded!"

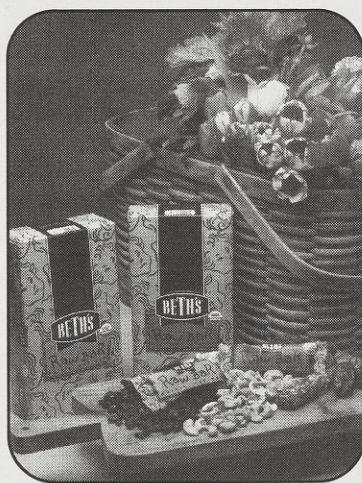
Years later, Beth is still making her pecan tarte, along with a large range of natural, organic and vegan deserts, mixes and specialties.

She founded her own company "Beth's Fine Desserts" and debuted Beth's Baking Basics in February 1998 in three classic cake flavors—Harvest Lemon, Blue Ribbon Chocolate and Heirloom Spice Cake Mix.

Newly released is Beth's line of raw, uncooked, completely organic and vegan-friendly energy bars.

The bars are made from dates or raisins and lots of fresh, chopped cashews, rolled into one tasty treat that will make even anti-healthy food lovers change their tune about good-for-you snack foods.

To find where Beth's energy bars can be purchased at a local location, sign onto her website at: www.beths.com or call 1-800-425-BETH. ▼



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Dear Mom, I have a friend who is a sex addict. I love them very much, but no matter where we go or what we do, he is more interested in going to urinals to see penises or leaving me alone at the bars while he sneaks off into someone's car. I am sick of it. He's slept with all my friends, too, and now I'm afraid he's going to go after my husband. Help! Signed, Freaked-out Friend.

Baby, the easy answer is that this guy is not your friend. If he was, he'd think more about you and your friendship than always tryin' to get his needs met. But I know things aren't as black and white as all that. But he does have a real problem. Sex addictions can be destructive to more than just friendships, they can cost jobs, relationships and even lives. Assuming your friend has a problem and isn't just being a rhymes-with-witch, then the only thing you can do for him is confront him and try to get him to seek some sort of counseling or an Sexual Compulsives Anonymous group. If he really is your friend, hang in there and try to get him help. But if he's just user-friendly, lock up your husband and walk away. Love, Mom.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
 1 Brit. Virgin Islands (abbr.)
 4 Viking
 8 External covering
 12 Belonging to (suf.)
 13 End (pref.)
 14 Mississippi bridge
 15 Compass direction
 16 Maenad
 18 Broad structural basin
 20 Water nymph
 21 Abdominal (abbr.)
 23 Stair post
 27 Sp. instrument
 32 Annoy
 33 Insect
 34 Misrepresent
 36 You (Ger.)
 37 Hindu month
 39 Female noble
 41 Bird

43 Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
 44 Trespass for game
 48 Gamin
 51 Puce (2 words)
 55 Shoe size
 56 "Uncle Remus" rabbit
 57 7th incarnation of Vishnu
 58 Cathode-ray tube (abbr.)
 59 Convey
 60 Black
 61 Kilometers per hour (abbr.)

DOWN
 1 Conquer
 2 Anatomical duct
 3 Limp
 4 Off-track betting (abbr.)
 5 Compact
 6 Razor-billed auk



Dear Mom, my boyfriend always thinks he knows what's best for me. I am not the slim, perfect twinkie type. But it seems like that's what he wants me to be and will go out of his way to make happen. He parks blocks away so we have to walk extra distances, he will invent reasons for me to move heavy things all over the house, and now he's trying to force me onto this diet of nothing but canned green beans. I love him, but he won't listen.

Honey, this is common with all relationships, gay, het, les, etc. communication is the key to a healthy relationship and no one is

listening. Darlin' there are only three options here. One, do what he wants; two, dump him; three, make him hear you. Start by sitting him down and having a real talk with him. Not one of those raving queen talks we all have now and then, but a real heart to heart. Confront him gently with the things he does and tell him how it makes you feel.

Now you'll have to be willing to also listen to what he has to say, even if it's not what you want to hear. No one should be put down because of their body, particularly someone who wants to share it for the rest of your life. As long as you are comfortable within your own skin, that's more than enough.

Good luck, baby!
Dear Mom, my sister keeps hitting on all my gay friends, to the point where they are uncomfortable around her. She is also my roommate. How do I tell her to stop?

Well, assuming she's not just trying to embarrass you, because you're her brother, I'd guess she is either attempting to make it known that she is "OK" with your friends' sexuality, but doing it badly, or she is just a cat in heat and all straight girls who are not religious fanatics believe they can turn gay guys straight.

Regardless of the reason, sit her down, tell her that her behavior is making your friends uncomfortable and ask her to stop. sometimes it's that simple. ▼

Talk to Mother is for entertainment purposes only. Neither MGW nor the author can be held liable for any injury or loss, perceived or actual, resulting from the above-mentioned entertainment.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

G	A	D	A	N	A	K	C	O	S	M
I	H	I	B	U	N	A	O	R	T	S
B	E	S	A	N	I	M	A	L	F	A
E	M	M	A	D	O					
			A	C	T	O	N	A	R	C
			M	E	N	U	I	T	E	M
			A	G	T	S	O	G	A	
			D	P	I	P	A	L	N	R
			A	D	E	C	O	L	O	S
			E	E	M	A	S	T	A	A
			E	C	U		P	R	A	E
			G	R	A	S	S	T	E	M
			O	P	H	E	Y	A	S	C
			A	M	S	D	E	N	S	T
										C

company (abbr.)
 22 Cotillion attendee
 24 Jab
 25 Ancient Gr. city
 26 Dregs
 27 Heddles of a loom
 28 Handle
 29 Beak
 30 Guido's note (2 words)
 31 Shooting match
 35 Equal opportunity employer (abbr.)
 38 Household linen
 40 Nati!
 Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
 42 Chin. pan
 45 Rhine tributary
 46 Crustacean
 47 Blood (pref.)
 49 Amer. Assn. of Retired Persons (abbr.)
 50 Eng. spa
 51 Abate
 52 Yorkshire river
 53 Race the motor
 54 Israelite tribe

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You have a talented habit of making everything about you—sometimes let it be about your partner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This may be one of those weeks where you wonder "why" about everything. Hang in there, good times are around the bend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Two faces aren't always a bad thing, particularly when both are caring. Just be careful that one face isn't talking too much.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) New adventures are waiting around the bend! perhaps you've already taken steps for adding more fun to your life. As you do, a new life is about to begin for you—Let it happen.

Tarotscopes

By
JESSICA RABBIT
 MGW STAFF



Dear Jessica, My boyfriend got picked up for DWI and when I went to pick him up from the police station, he went to get his car and they arrested him AGAIN that same night. Is he going to do time? —New York, NY

Dear Seeker, This is a BIG lesson for your boyfriend in his own addictive tendencies. He is coming up as the Emperor, meaning that he was so stubbornly focused on what he wanted that he couldn't see what a trap it was for him to go get his car that night. It looks like there is a history of him getting into drunk driving situations and getting out of them, evidenced by the Star in his past. I don't see jail time, which will be a big relief, as he has the World- the best card in the deck- as his outcome. But he also has the 5 of Pentacles, which tells me he will probably get his license revoked. My common sense tells me there will be probation also. What you can do in this is be supportive of him. You are the Page of Cups, which indicates that you have to hold him in a safe place where he can allow himself to be afraid and fragile, otherwise he won't get what he needs from this experience.

Dear Jessica, I am having surgery coming up this month. Will it be ok? —Scarsdale, NY

Dear Seeker, Yes- everything will be fine. I know you are scared and feeling reluctant about this, as indicated by the 3 of Swords and 7 of Swords, but you are doing the right thing by taking this step. You have the Fool with the Magician as your outcomes. The Fool tells me that you are strong going into this, and the Magician tells me that you have a very good doctor. Just try to relax about it and rest ahead of time so your body can heal efficiently when it's over. Good luck!

Dear Jessica, How is my relationship doing? —Oakland, CA

Dear Seeker, Well, it looks like it's fine. You are coming up as Temperance, which is balance, and it seems as though some good things have recently happened for your partner, as s/he is coming up as the Empress (so I assume your partner is female, and so are you.) There are some fragile first steps toward more security in the relationship, as shown by the page of Pentacles, but sudden surprises seem to be working against you, as represented by the Tower. In the next few days, you have to work on your jealousy- it blocks everyone's growth. And you also have to trust that the things that bother you about your partner are the things that bother you about yourself (the Knight of Swords.) Just be like the 6 of Pentacles—generous and compassionate- and everything will be just fine. ▼

Jessica Rabbit is a lesbian psychic and tarot reader in the Bay Area. She reads privately for clients over the telephone or in person and can be reached at jessica@secrettarot.com or via the web at secrettarot.com. She also reads every Friday night at the White Horse Bar on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may think you always know what's best, but sometimes you need to check your know-it-all attitude at the door. Loosen up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) That naive act is getting old. Stop it before someone believes you and takes things too far. You tried to play both sides but things got deeper than you expected, didn't they?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Good times are like a rollercoaster. They leave you breathless, but don't close your eyes or you'll miss something. Don't blink.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Sometimes we are on the right path even when it feels like we are on the wrong one. Just keep walking and watch your step. You'll be fine. And if not, there will always be tomorrow. ▼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Stop and smell the roses, now is as good a time as ever. If you can't stop and smell them, at least admire them from a distance.

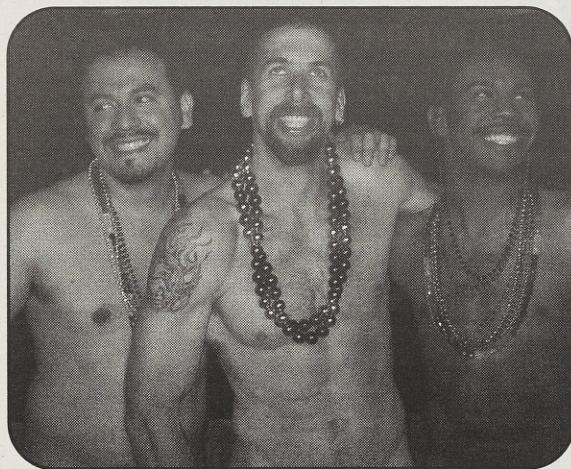
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You've definitely got a chip on your shoulder these days. Maybe instead of placing blame on others, you should take a look in the mirror.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A good time for you to tackle new home improvement projects and end unhappy relationships. Do it now before you get in too deep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Every breath you take, every move you make...nice lyrics, but a scary thought in real life. Put your obsessive-compulsive tendencies on the background and just relax. ▼

Lambda Players' "Hot Summer Nights" Is Scorching

By MICHAEL SHANAHAN
MGW STAFF



Having a GLBT theatre company in any city is a big deal; having a company that produces plays year round is a testament to the city's commitment to their culture. Sacramento's Lambda Players will kick off its 17th season of productions in September 2005, and celebrate their eighth month in their own theater space. But as they close their season, what will happen during the summer months when most theatres typically take time off.

"Well, most theatre people go to Music Circus during the summer," says Board President Tom Swanner. "So musicals are out. But we've decided to give our audiences a little something they don't get to see much of in Sacramento theatre: naked men."

"As summer months are typically bad theatre months," says Artistic Director Matt Burlingame, "instead of closing our doors, we're using the time to do several things most theatre's don't get a chance to do. The first is present material that we normally would not put into a main season due to subject matter or it being too risqué for our mixed audiences."

"The second thing is that we get to test new directors with shows that have shorter runs and require lots of imagination."

The group has dubbed the three productions scheduled to

run during June, July and August "Hot Summer Nights." And they are not kidding.

The first play opening June 3 is called "Last Sunday In June" and revolves around the story of two gay men living on the gay pride parade route in New York. During the show we find that the couple has been cheating on one another, and doing so with

the friends that come over throughout the day. Part post-gay social commentary and part modern-gay sensibility, the show is not only fun, but charged with abundant nudity, priceless banter and farce-like behavior.

The second show, opening July 8, is "Catch", written by Tony MacDonald. Using a baseball analogy, the piece, tackles the dark topic of "bug catching" which is when one gay man actively seeks to be infected with the HIV virus from another gay man.

"It's a good show, well written and with an important social message, but it's something we wouldn't present to our main audiences," says Director Brian Judd. "Hot Summer Nights allows us to present more experimental and cutting edge work."

Despite the subject matter,

"Catch" is a strong comedy, as well as a sexually charged show with a number of erotic situations.

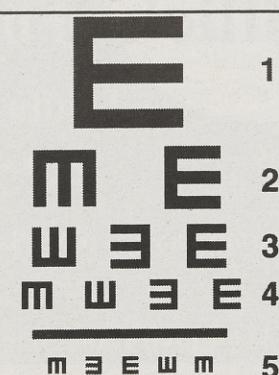
The last show, opening August 12, is "Party" by David Dillon. the show is a light comedy, exploring the characters' relationships with one another through a game of truth or dare which leads to the entire cast, including a priest, being nude by the end of the show. The show, directed by Steve Buri has had successful runs in other cities including San Francisco.

But will Sacramento audiences embrace the concept of Hot Summer Nights? Edgy shows marketed for adult only audiences, unashamedly using sexual situations as a selling point.

"That's one way to look at it," says Burlingame laughing. "We'll have to see. These shows are real, solid works that have played in many theatres. Sacramento audiences tend to be a little more conservative, but I think under that conservatism is a healthy dose of pent up sexuality. If it's in our daily lives, it shouldn't shock us to see it expressed in our art and our theatre."

"It's good, clean fun," says Swanner.

Not part of the main season, Hot Summer Nights has acquired separate sponsors for the summer months including Interactive Male, a gay men's meeting phoneline, and MGW Newspaper. The company is currently seeking further sponsorship for the shows. ▼



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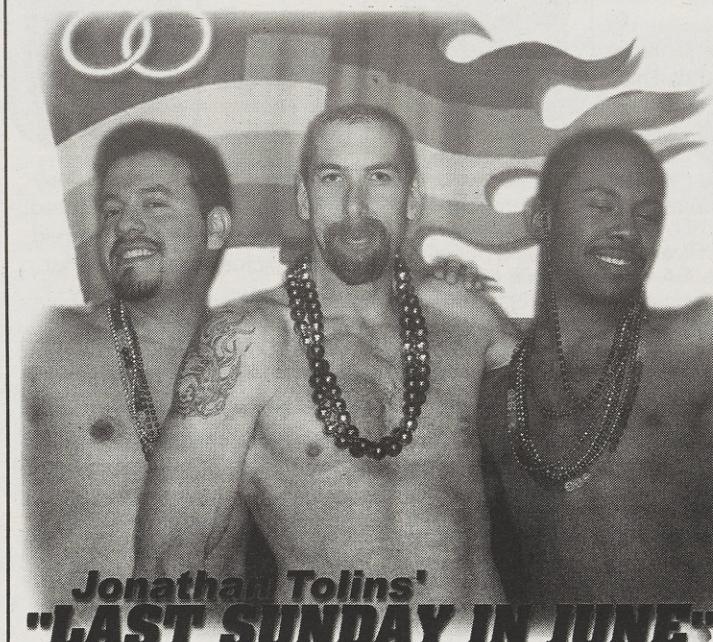
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PRESENT



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LAMBDA PLAYERS
PRESENTS

LAST SUNDAY IN JUNE
BY JONATHAN TOLINS

JUNE 3-JULY 3

CATCH
BY TONY McDONALD

JULY 8-AUG. 6

PARTY

BY DAVID DILLON
AUG. 12-SEPT. 3

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HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

CONTAINS NUDITY & ADULT SITUATIONS

IT'S MY FAMILY,
TOO!By
SAM CATALANO
MGW STAFF

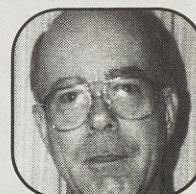
On May 10th, I attended the hearing of the CA Assembly Judiciary Committee. They were debating a bill by Republican Ray Haynes of Riverside that would put into the CA Constitution a permanent ban on gays and lesbians marrying as well as banning civil unions and all domestic partner benefits. The bill lost, as expected, with all the Democrats voting no and (Big Surprise!) all the Reps voting yes. That's the good news. The bad news is that this very same constitutional amendment will appear on the June 2006 ballot and the likelihood of it passing is probably better than 50/50. Be prepared for the battle of our lives.

That ugliness aside, what turned my stomach at this hearing was having to sit there and listen to this hateful homophobic bigot talk about how marriage is meant for the protection of families and children. That was his closing argument. Of course, not more than two feet away from him sat lesbian Gretchen Bender, who talked about her partner and their two children, and Maria, the child of two lesbian partners, who testified about their relationship. However, in the eyes of all the homophobes like every Republican member of the CA Legislature, the American Taliban Christians, the We-Never-Met-a-Child-Molesting-Priest-We-Didn't-Try-to-Hide-and-Cover-up-for Catholic Church, our families are somehow not "real families." They yell marriage equality is anti-family and I yell back, "What about our families, our children?"

One of the folks who testified against this proposed constitutional amendment is Geoff Kors of Equality CA. I think he summed up our rebuttal perfectly. "The truth is this measure would have done nothing to protect a single California family -- it would not have helped parents provide food, shelter or clothing for their children; it would not have put an extra teacher in a classroom or immunized any child against a life-threatening disease. What it would have done is make it harder for tens of thousands of parents to provide for their children's most basic needs, such as health insurance."

After the hearing finished and the homophobes were leaving, I couldn't resist saying in my loudest voice, "I'm confused. How is that allowing a convicted heterosexual serial killer to get married in CA somehow strengthens marriage and supports children but allowing gays does not?" I did enjoy all the dirty looks I got from these family haters. ▼

Lobbying 101: A Look At The Ease Of Speaking Up and Out

By
BOYCE HINMAN
MGW STAFF

People often act as if lobbying is a scary, complicated thing that they would be afraid to try. Actually it's not all that complicated. And we really need more people to join the effort. So today, I'll give you the current status of the bills of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community. Then I'll give you some basic information that you can use to lobby in support of these important bills.

Here is a rundown of the bills with the status as of May 19. When you see "LLP Position" below it indicates the position of the Lambda Letters Project on the bill.

AB 12 (Chuck Devore, R-Irvine) **Purpose:** Would have allowed people to complete a short beneficiary deed transferring ownership of their home to another person upon the death of the homes owner. The other person could have been the owner's domestic partner. Completion of this deed would have allowed the home to be transferred without going through the lengthy, expensive probate process. Under pressure from the Assembly Judiciary Committee, the bill was changed to state just that the California Law Revision Commission should study the concept.

LLP Position: Support
Status: Will be voted on in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 25.

AB 19 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco) **Purpose:** Would allow same sex couples to marry.
LLP Position: Support
Status: Expected to be approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 25.

AB 195 (Mervyn Dymally, D-Compton) **Purpose:** To allow the State Personnel Board to award attorneys fees to someone proving the state government engaged in employment discrimination.
LLP Position: Support
Status: To be voted on in Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 25.



LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT

AB 220 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco) **Purpose:** To change the legal terminology of "battered women's syndrome" to "intimate partner battering". This will recognize the fact that same sex battering occurs and needs to be addressed.

LLP Position: Support
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

AB 378 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park) **Purpose:** To increase the time people have to submit complaints of hate crimes.
LLP Position: Support
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Will be voted on in Senate Judiciary Committee on June 7.

AB 723 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park) **Purpose:** To require schools to teach tolerance to their students including tolerance towards LGBTI people.
LLP Position: Support
Status: Will be voted on in Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 25.

AB 866 (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco) **Purpose:** To amend a voluntary pledge taken by political candidates to add a promise they won't trash the LGBTI community during their campaigns.
LLP Position: Support
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Sent to the Senate Elections Committee.

AB 1400 (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz) **Purpose:** To ban discrimination in public accommodations such as restaurants and hotels.
LLP Position: Support
Status: Approved by the Assembly. To be voted on by the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 14.

AB 1586 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood) **Purpose:** To ban health insurance discrimination against transgender people.
LLP Position: Support
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

ACA 3 (Ray Haynes, R-Temecula) and SCA 1 (Bill Morrow, R-San Juan Capistrano) **Purpose:** Both bills would have amended the California constitution to ban same sex marriage and take away

all the rights gained for domestic partners over the last several years.

LLP Position: Oppose
Status: Defeated.

SB 300 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles) **Purpose:** To increase the circumstances under which an employer must allow employees to take time off to care for seriously ill family members including domestic partners.

LLP Position: Support
Status: Will be voted on in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 26.

SB 973 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles) **Purpose:** To make it easier for some state and local government retirees, who retired prior to 2001, to change their retirement options to benefit them and their domestic partners.
LLP Position: Support
Status: Will be voted on in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 23.

The most basic lobbying everyone can do is to write to their legislators in support or opposition to a bill. Don't know who your legislators are? Visit Lambda Letters' web page at: www.lambdaletters.org and click on "Who Represents You?" to find out. Or call the county registrar of voters for your county to find out. Here are their phone numbers for the Sacramento area:

Placer County - (530) 886-5650. Sacramento County - (916) 875-6451. San Joaquin County -

(209) 468-2885. Solano County - (707) 421-6675. Yolo County - (530) 666-8133

Don't know what to say? The most important thing to say is that you support or oppose the bill and to give your address so that the legislator knows you live in his or her district. Then if you care to, just say briefly why you support or oppose the bill. It does not have to be fancy. Two or three sentences would be fine.

The letter can be sent to the following address: *The Hon. (Your legislator's first and last name) The California Legislature Sacramento, CA 95814*

Step two would be to get your friends and neighbors write to your legislators about the bill. Consider having a letter writing party. It could be a pot luck supper. If you and your friends gather frequently socially, consider making one of those events a letter writing party.

Legislators really pay attention to the amount of mail they get from their constituents. I joined the LGBTI lobby day event held on May 16. More than one legislator we visited said they would probably not vote for AB 19 (see above) because they were getting very little mail in support of it from the people in their legislative district. So, even very simple letters from people in your letter

Lobbying 101...
Continued on page 26

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CITY OF SACRAMENTO BOARD & COMMISSION OPENINGS

Development Oversight Commission
(1 opening)
Closes 6/17/05

Animal Care Service Citizen Advisory Committee
(1 opening)
Closes 6/17/05

Small Business Development & Employment Advisory Board
(3 openings)
5/27/05

Transportation Programming Guide Community Advisory Committee
(3 openings)
Closes 6/10/05

Website: www.cityofsacramento.org/clerk/boards

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO BOARD OR COMMISSION OPENINGS:

Arden-Arcade Community Planning Advisory Council
(1 opening)
Open Filing

Children's Coalition
(7 openings)
Open Filing

Sacramento Environmental Commission
(1 opening)
Filing Period:
5/24/05-6/23/05

Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Programs
(2 openings)
Open Filing

Civil Service Commission
(1 opening)
Filing Period:
5/16/05-5/27/05

Sacramento Metropolitan Art Commission
(1 opening)
Open Filing

Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee
(1 opening)
Open Filing

Mission Oak Recreational & Park District
(2 openings)
Filing Period: 5/16/05 to 5/27/05

Website: www.sccob.sac-county.net/pages/boards

Yes, Mr. Tsien, We Are Ready For Marriage Equality

By
DANIEL ROTH
STONEWALL
DEMOCRATIC
CLUB



Well, the fight is on. The American Taliban has declared a very unholy war against gay and lesbian Californians. Last month a coalition of right wing zealots announced their initiative under the title "The Voters' Right to Protect Marriage Initiative" and filed it with the state Attorney General's Office as the first step toward placing a constitutional marriage amendment before California voters in 2006.

The so-called Campaign for Children and Families has taken it upon themselves to roll back twenty years of civil rights gains that the gay and lesbian community has fought for. Not only would the initiative put into the California Constitution is between one man and one woman, but it would take away all domestic partner benefits that gay and lesbian couples currently enjoy. If this initiative passes, gay and lesbian couples could no longer visit their partners in the hospital or make medical decisions for their loved ones. The city of Sacramento could no longer offer domestic partner benefits to city employees or require companies that contract with the city to offer the same benefits to domestic partners that they offer to married couples.

The initiative declares that it is the best interest of children to be raised in a family with one man and one woman. And the state would not be allowed to grant adoption rights to same sex couples who want to adopt children, thus contradicting the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which has stated that children who are born to, or adopted by, one member of a gay or lesbian couple deserve the security of two legally recognized par-

ents, and as a result the AAP now supports equal protection for same-sex couples under the law.

This initiative is draconian, and there is no question that we need to join together to battle it. We must work together gays and lesbians with our straight allies. We must look beyond party because this is a fight that will require Democrats, Republicans, Greens, Independents, Libertarians, and whoever else to beat back this mean spirited initiative.

"But in the midst of forming a coalition to ensure our basic civil rights are not rolled back, I could not believe Matthew Tsien's article in the last issue of Mom Guess What. While the Stonewall Democrats are preparing to invest our time, money and resources to stand up for equal rights our community, it appears that some people in the leadership of Log Cabin Republicans are actually supporting the American Taliban's actions and providing them with arguments to support stripping away our civil rights."

— Dan Roth, President SDC

But in the midst of forming a coalition to ensure our basic civil rights are not rolled back, I could not believe Matthew Tsien's article in the last issue of Mom Guess What. While the Stonewall Democrats are preparing to invest our time, money and resources to stand up for equal rights our community, it appears that some people in the leadership of Log Cabin Republicans are actually supporting the American Taliban's actions and providing them with arguments to support stripping away our civil rights.

I was angered that the Vice President of Development for the Florida Gold Coast Log Cabin Republicans would be feeding into the American Taliban's rhetoric that somehow gay and lesbian Americans are not psychologically developed enough for marriage. Mr. Tsien wrote about a situation that "has occurred several times." Apparently, Mr. Tsien finds himself in a casual conversation with some gay people about gay life and someone says, "You know why most of us are not married?" Mr. Tsien asks, "Why?" Mr. Tsien's friend replies, "Because no one wants to commit. They just want to fool around

and have lots of sex."

Well, Mr. Tsien, you and your friends are not a cross-section of gay and lesbian culture, and your article only perpetuates the stereotypes that the right wing has desperately held on to for years as justification for denying same-sex couples equal rights under the law. Maybe, Mr. Tsien, it is time that you find a new group of friends instead of relying upon your own extremely narrow world view as a basis for

statewide and national policy. Every day I meet same-sex couples who have been in committed relationships for many years. They have raised children, bought homes, shared checking accounts, and gone through good and rough times together. They are expected to pay the same taxes and follow the same laws as every one else, but when they ask to be treated with equal rights under the law, they are shunned and told they are somehow sub-human.

We have seen amazing gains in California and throughout the United States in obtaining basic civil rights for gays and lesbians, from the United States Supreme Court striking down anti-sodomy laws, a law that as Governor of Texas, George W. Bush supported as a "traditional value", to Massachusetts granting full marriage equality to gay and lesbian couples. Through years of legislative fights, compromise, advocacy and hard work, California now has the most extensive domestic-partner rights of any state in America, but next year, we could see those rights disappear and once again relationships and families will be invisible in the eyes of the law.

The fight to defeat the right-wings attempt to demoralize me, my friends and the people I love will take time, money, and resources, and I hope that Mr. Tsien will join the coalition standing up for civil rights for all Americans and not provide kindling for the right wings homophobic rhetoric. ▼

Daniel Roth is President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

EUROPE AND GAY AMERICA WERE WRONG; BUSH WAS

RIGHT

By MATTHEW
TSIEN MGW
STAFF



The time has come for most of the anti-war gay community who sided with Europe to come to terms with George W. Bush. The reason for this reconciliation is something that both Europe and anti-war gay activists would prefer not to mention, i.e., their suspicion that George Bush is a far more substantial political leader than they had thought even 3-4 months ago. That suspicion goes beyond accepting that he will be leading America for the next four years or even that his reelection showed a majority constituency for his policies. It is the suspicion that he may be proving right (or at least less wrong) over Iraq, the wider democracy project, and foreign policy in general.

The Iraq elections were plainly the catalyst for this feeling, but it is beginning to extend to other questions. Consider:

Iraq. A long struggle is ahead, but most Iraqis have warmly embraced a democratic future. And, although terrorism often succeeds against a foreign colonial power, it never defeats a domestic democratic majority.

Israel/Palestine. Bush's contention that serious progress toward peace was dependent upon the removal of Yasser Arafat has been confirmed with almost comic speed. The European Union's long and passionate embrace of the old terrorist now looks counterproductive as well as disgraceful.

Syria/Lebanon. Europe, especially France, long ago withdrew its protection from Lebanon, where a partial democracy had existed for 30 years. It has also turned a blind eye to Syria's support for Iraqi terrorism. But the murder of the former Lebanese premier has aroused both the international community and the Lebanese people. Suddenly, France joined Bush in uniting in their support for Lebanese democracy and ordered a pull out by the Syrians.

Iran. This is the Middle East crisis the Europeans have selected as a demonstration of what their diplomacy can achieve. Thus far it has allowed the Iranian mullahs to significantly advance their nuclear reprocessing program.

In the face of these contrasts, it is hard to maintain that Europe represents skilled diplomacy or was right in not joining Bush's invasion of Iraq, and the U.S. represents heavy-handed militarism. Rather the Europeans are instinctively averse to change, shrink from dealing with crisis, and cling to what Bush has called the "false stability" of dictatorships. Furthermore, gay people and gay groups in America who so proudly aligned themselves with the Europeans who did not support Bush were just as wrong and misguided. ▼

Matthew Tsien is the Vice-President of the Florida Gold Coast Log Cabin Republicans. He served as Director for President Ronald Reagan's official lobbying organization, CITIZENS FOR AMERICA, and was a political correspondent in Washington, D.C. from 1988-95.



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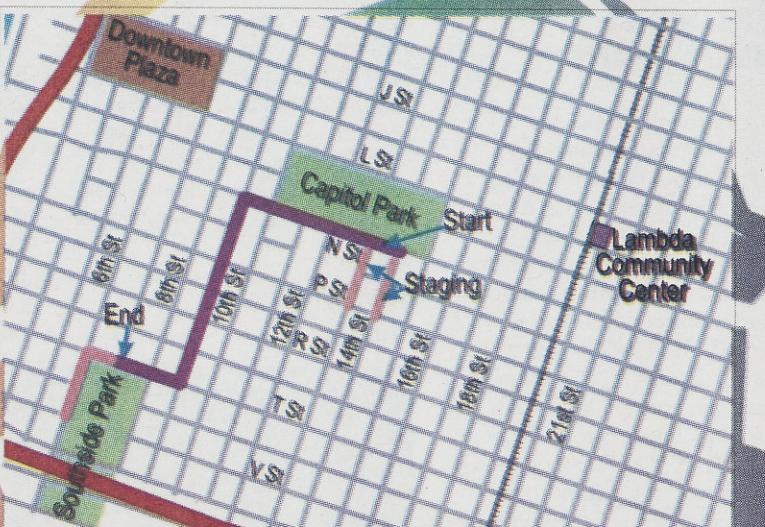
The Parade route starts at 13th and N and head West on N street, turning South on 9th, continuing down to T street and heading West. Floats will be viewable on 6th street between T and V streets.

PARADE CONTINGENTS

Faces & CGNIE
Sisters of Scota
Valley Knights Motorcycle Club
Radical Faeries
Sacramento Valley Bears
Sacramento Leathermen
McMartin Realty
CARES

StoneWall Democratic Club
of Greater Sacramento
San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band
Cheer SF
Cheer Sacramento
UC Davis Marching Band
Sacramento Valley Veterans
GLSEN
Outward Magazine

PARADE ROUTE



VENDOR & BOOTH INFORMATION

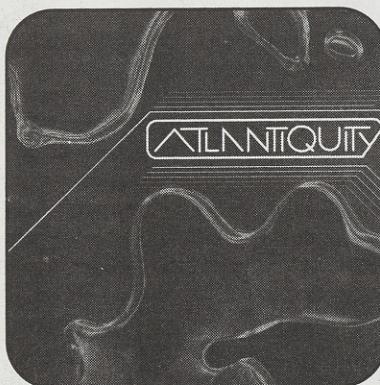
A04	CA LGBT Tobacco Education Partnership	C07	Intel	E12
A05	Stephan's Auto Haus	C08	Sacramento Intl. Gay & Lesbian Film Festival	E16
A06	Designs in Glass by Jan	C09	Outward News Magazine	F03,F04
A07	True Colors Women's Chorus	C13	Lavender Library, Archives And Cultural Exchange	F05
A08	Sacramento Area Community Women's Network	C14	McMartin Realty	F06,F07
A09		C15,C16	Premier Lending Services, LP	F08
A10,A11	Outland Magazine	D02	Greater Sacramento Area Couples	F09
A12	SETA/Sacramento Works	D03	SACNOTARYBRADLEY/PARTYLINE	F10
A13,A14,A15	PFinest Realty	D04	Cloud 9	F11
UC Davis Undergraduate Research Project/Sociology Dept	Sacramento Valley Veterans	D05	Crafts By Mila	G03
Dancing Rainbows	Lyon Real Estate	D06	Butch N Nellies Coffee Co., LLC	G05
Sacramento Area Rainbow Families	Delux Burgers	D07,D08	Sacramento PFLAG	G06
Sierra Adoption Services	Human Rights Campaign	D09	GLSEN GSAC	G07
Lambda Youth Programs/Groups	S & R Thai-Chinese BBQ	D10	Capitol City Hoopers GLBT Basketball League	G08
Trail Girls	Merlinos Freeze	D12	ENH Research Institute Behavior Genetics Unit	G09
Valley Rainbow Pages.com	Big Joe's BBQ	D17	State Farm Insurance	G10
Lambda Players	B10 Stonewall Democratic Club	D18	Sacramento County Tobacco Education Program	
MGW News	B11 Sky High Marketing	D19	Sacramento Diocesan Aids Ministry	G11
Great Valley Chrysler, Mazda	B12,F15 CARES	D20	SONA Med Spa	G12
The Antique Company, Inc	B13,B11 Kaiser Permanente North	D21	Pariarts	G13
Capitol City Squares	B15 Women's Health Specialist	E02	Lavender Committee, SEIU, local 1000	G14
KIV Health Services Planning	B16 Chaney Chiropractic & Back to Back Chiropractic	E03,E04	The Big Iguana	G15
Frontrunners Sacramento	B17	E05	Rainbow Snow	G16
Galleria Billiards & Spas	B18 Rainbow Chamber of Commerce	E06	Xochimilco Mexican Restaurant	G17
The Healing Touch Chiropractic	B19,B20 California Mens Gathering	E07	Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento	G18
Lutheran Church Of Our Redeemer	C01 Marriage Equality California	E08	Sacramento Gender Assoc.	H01
Golden Rule Services	C03 Hewlett Packard	E09		H02
The Pampered Chef	C04 Fisher Chiropractic			
HUMAN	C05 Peace and Freedom			
	C06 Starbucks			

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New CDs Are Packaged Better Than They Are Produced

By Michael Shanahan/MGW Staff
Matthew Burlingame/MGW Editor



ATLANTIQUITY RHINO/ATLANTIC

This visionary compilation of remixes by ace contemporary producers is a modern homage to classic grooves from the incredible Atlantic Records catalog.

The collection was masterminded by L.A.-based urban tastemaker and renowned club and KCRW deejay Garth Trinidad, who writes in his liner notes, "I, like so many others, am constantly seeking inspiration. Looking for the perfect beat, as it were...most of my inspiration is still drawn from things pre-1980... It's an education and a pleasure to discover that which is timeless."

This disc contains 12 soul, jazz, and funk classics from the Atlantic vaults remixed by today's hottest DJs and producers.

Tracks include King Britt's

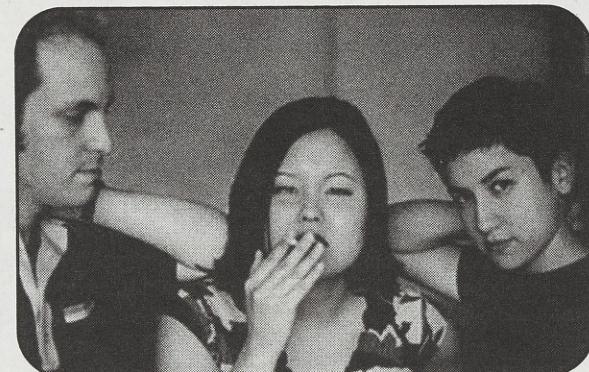
remix of Chic's "A Warm Summer Night," a Vikter Duplaix remix of Slave's "Watching You," and Kleeer's "Tonight" remixed by Sa-Ra featuring the Sa-Ra All Stars & Me'Shell Ndegeocello. Other immortal tracks reimagined for ATLANTIQUITY include Sister Sledge's "We Are Family" (Daz-I-Kue Remix) and AWB's "Pick Up The Pieces" (Charlie Dark Remix).

While the disc is full of big names and released as a power CD, many of the tracks fall flat. The stand out track is Sister Sledge's "We Are Family", though even it doesn't have quite the impact producers were hoping for. The real challenge for reviving and remixing music is to take something that has lost its newness and make it appealing to new young listeners. In this case, few will be listening. —M.B. ▼

Sound C--

Packaging B

Effort: C-



GIRLYMAN • LITTLE STAR DAEMON RECORDS

Some may call them a modern-day Peter, Paul, & Mary, only

edgier, and with a quirky sense of humor. Doris Muramatsu, Nate Borofsky, and Ty Greenstein are long-time musicians and friends who create a rich, poignant, playful sound that crosses genres and genders. Girlyman's harmony-driven style veers from contemporary folk to country rock to pop. Each member switches off songwriting duties, lead vocals, and a range of instruments, including acoustic guitar, djembe, banjo, baritone guitar, and mandolin.

In a short time, Girlyman has generated an impressive buzz. The group was voted "Most Wanted to Return" at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and won the 2004 Independent Music Award in the Folk/Singer-Songwriter category.

Doris and Ty got their start as the Outmusic Award-winning duo The Garden Verge, and Nate as a Boston Music Award-winning singer-songwriter. Due to housing complications, the three musicians ended up renting an apartment together in Brooklyn in 2001.

"It was a 'hey-you-got-your-chocolate-in-my-peanut-butter' situation," explains Ty. "We immediately began to sing in a soprano-alto-tenor configuration." Their first rehearsal as a trio was scheduled for September 11, 2001—needless to say, it was postponed. But, according to Nate, the events of that day

affected the group's vision: "After that, we thought it was really important to go into this new project with the intention to have fun, to do what felt right, and to not take ourselves too seriously. We started out by calling the new group 'Girlyman.'

Despite whatever images the name may conjure, whatever misgivings the description of the group may have on potential listeners, this group is one that proves that the contents is more important than the packaging.

Beautifully blended harmonies, meaningful but not over-aggressive lyrics, and a sound that both soothes and energizes, this is one disc that is a definite plus to any collection. —M.S. ▼

Sound A

Packaging C-

Effort: A-

BYLLI CRAYONE FUNUSUAL RECORDS

Born and raised in Lawrence, MA. Crayone has been into music all his life, he cut his first demo in 1992 and followed that with local shows in both Ft. Lauderdale and Lawrence. The response was positive, so he continued recording with the inspiration artists such as Cyndi Lauper and Beyoncé Knowles of Destinys Child who is a strong supporter of his talents.

Previous releases include the disc "Toyfriend" released in July of 2001 on an Indie label that services to the underground dance community. Tracks released from that included "Drop

Those Pants!" and "Touch me All Over". Both went over well on the Indie music scene. After several more discs, Crayone's new work, released from Funusal records, covers past hits as well as new work and a number of mixes.

Crayone is known for his freedom with sexually suggestive lyrics and innuendo as well as for



pushing the envelope of sexuality.

Crayone's new self-titled release sounds more like a demo disc than a full release. Several songs end up sounding overproduced, and often the vocals are buried within a tinny beat, as if the disc player were inside a trash can. This could be the artist's plan, but is more-likely a lack of a proper recording studio. Still, Crayone's talent is evident on each track and it is no doubt that in time, with the right backing, he will propel into one of the better recognized mixers working today. —M.S. ▼

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All the Right Moves: Mad Hot Ballroom

When children turn ten or so, they begin to show signs of their older selves—not just physically but emotionally and intellectually. It's at this age that a strong, nurturing environment can make the most of them, and a harsh, unforgiving influence may doom them. When writer Amy Sewell learned about mandatory ballroom dancing lessons that took place in some sixty public schools in New York City, she became intrigued. Once she visited the children in class, she got hooked by their enthusiasm, outlook, and individual stories—and signed up director Marilyn Agrelo to help her tell the tale. *Mad Hot Ballroom*, which played recently at the 48th San Francisco International Film Festival, profiles a dozen kids from three elementary schools who find coolness in an activity that most of their peers would just as soon deride as dorky.

The three schools chosen for this documentary couldn't be more different from one another.

The street-wise, intellectual, middle-class kids at PS 150 in

downtown Tribeca contrast starkly with the Washington Heights children at PS 115, who hail from mostly poor Dominican immigrants. Then there's the historically Italian neighborhood of Bensonhurst and PS 112, whose makeup is now half-Asian. All three schools show a degree of diversity and zest for life that is the hallmark of all things New York. The kids' embrace of dance is just one interesting component of their anything-but-humdrum lives.

Guiding each group of youngsters are the dance instructors who bring their own enthusiasm and brand of discipline to the gym floor. They engage the kids to make eye contact, hold their heads high, extend their arms out, and—above all—show some attitude. The kids learn to distinguish the foxtrot from the merengue, the rumba from the tango—and learn to really swing with the swing. Despite their natural, conflicted emotions towards the opposite sex, they rationalize their activity as "just dancing"—nothing more or less, and especially nothing at all having to do with dating.

The drama in this whole exercise leads towards the year-end citywide championship, which occurs after ten weeks of practice. The chief target is the grand prize trophy.

standing taller than most of the kids themselves, that the winning school gets to keep until they lose it to another school.

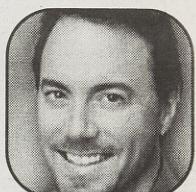
Given the number of children involved, it's easy to mix up who's who and where they're from. Although each kid is identified at the beginning, after a while they tend to blend together, except for a few standouts who hold their own. Wilson from Washington Heights speaks little English but makes up for that by expressing himself with his lithe moves and beaming eyes on the dance floor. Jatna, also from Washington Heights, wants to become a dancer more than a doctor. (Both of them appear mid-stride on the poster.) Meanwhile, Ronnie and Michael love foosball just about as much as they do dancing; and diminutive Ronnie doesn't let his size get him down, even when he's paired up with an Amazonian girl. Zeb from Tribeca never hides his emotions; he's desperate to make it on the team, and then to the finals. Fellow classmate Cyrus is the intellectual who wants someday to become an architect because he hates the sight of ugly buildings. And Tara practices her moves in front of the wall-sized mirror that graces her bedroom, ready as ever for her close-up.

It's amazing how natural these children are in

front of the camera. Filmmakers Agrelo and Sewell must be credited with helping the children open up and feel comfortable. Unfortunately, director of photography Claudia Raschke-Robinson neglects to show these dancers' intricate footsteps most of the time, so that exactly what differentiates a rumba from a merengue is pretty much left up to the imagination for those in the audience who barely know a waltz from a jitterbug. This is a pity because, if Fred Astaire taught directors anything about doing musicals, it was to always show the feet of the dancers. The camera in *Mad Hot Ballroom* catches plenty of candid expressions throughout the children's dance sessions—everything from "why can't you lead better" to "I can't stand to look at you anymore." It would be nice if the camera captured the athleticism of these dancers' lower bodies equally well.

Even so, with its toe-tapping soundtrack and energetic personalities, *Mad Hot Ballroom* is an irresistible antidote to the plethora of news stories about children caught up in gang violence or playground mayhem. The lessons these kids learn about competition and the ability to lose gracefully have lifelong practicality. And as one of the teachers says, the choices they know they can make

By
STEFAN
GRUENWEDEL
MGW STAFF



Mad Hot Ballroom
A film by Marilyn Agrelo
and Amy Sewell.
(Rated PG, 105 min.)

about which activities to engage in may even keep them out of jail later—or save their lives. It's heart-wrenching to know that not all kids will follow the "right" path in life, given how innocent they look now, but it's good to know that a program like this dance class can really help those with the most to lose. For one girl in particular, dancing turns around her problems with truancy and study habits like no therapy or discipline ever did. ▼

Mad Hot Ballroom opens June 3
at the Tower Theatre. Info:
www.paramountclassics.com/madhot

Poise, attitude and no "sloppy chicken wings" are the rules for the student competitors in Paramount Classics' dance documentary *Mad Hot Ballroom*, directed by Marilyn Agrelo.

Photo By: Claudia Raschke-Robinson



Monster-In-Law clobbers Madagascar

Swanner: It's too bad we reviewed *Star Wars* last time because it would be a nice flashy opening but all I got this time is *Madagascar* so basically...I got nothin'.

Judd: That's not true. You've got Jane Fonda in *Monster-In-Law*. That's something to open with, although I didn't get to see it so I wouldn't be able to contribute. But that's OK. I don't mind. Go ahead. Open with *Monster-In-Law*. I'll just sit here quietly until you need me.

Swanner: Thank you. *Monster-in-Law* is the new film that features Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda. This is Jane's first film in over 15 years and the film that will save Lopez's career. Lopez is dating and becomes engaged to Fonda's son. Fonda thinks Lopez is a skanky slut (obviously she's been reading the tabloids) and is going to do whatever to make sure the wedding never happens. I think people forget that Fonda has done her share of comedies, I think she's a very capable comedian and this film should do for her what *Meet the Fockers* did for Streisand. The scenes with Wanda Sykes and Fonda are the best in the film. It's not great art, but I liked it a lot.

Judd: Are you ready for me now?

Swanner: Yes, please. What did you think of *Kicking and Screaming*?

Judd: I didn't like *Kicking and Screaming*. I liked the premise, but I didn't like the jokes. Will Ferrell plays a sensitive man who grew up with a very competitive father, played by Robert Duvall. Without really going into it, because it's not worth the ink to print, Will's son plays on a team coached by Duvall. Duvall kicks his grandson to the loser team. Ferrell coaches the loser team; competes against Dad; hilarity supposedly ensues. It was a boring movie with lame jokes. It didn't get funny until Ferrell starting beating up on the kids.

Swanner: I agree completely. I usually like Ferrell movies, but he's such a nudge in the beginning and it doesn't get funny until

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"▼▼▼" = SEE IT IF U CAN!

"▼▼" = SEE THE DVD!

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By
TOM SWANNER
MGW STAFF

he's all strung out on coffee and he starts picking on the kids. Mike Ditka plays Mike Ditka in the movie and I've got to say that he plays a pretty good Ditka. I went to see *Sharks 3D* at the IMAX and boy was that ever boring. The 3D was good, but it was like a travel log about sharks. Nothing really happens and we just go from one kind of shark to another. The only saving grace was that it was only 40 minutes long otherwise...I honestly don't know what I would have done.

Judd: I don't like those IMAX 3D films. First of all, they're usually boring. Secondly, they're way too expensive. Thirdly, the glasses don't fit over the glasses I have to wear to see. They need to come up with a pair of huge 3D glasses that go over regular glasses, like what old people and fashion challenged lesbians wear. One movie that we both saw was Jet Li's *Unleashed*. Now we both had very different opinions about this film. Why don't you tell our readers what you thought, and then I'll tell you why you're wrong.

Swanner: I really liked the film. Jet Li plays a man that has been raised from a very young age to be a servant/dog for Bob Hoskin's character. I guess he took the old thought of get 'em young, train them right, a bit too seriously. Now as a man, Jet Li's character is used as a weapon for Hoskin's loan shark business. You don't pay what you owe and he'll sick the dog on you. Li meets Morgan Freeman who shows him a life he never knew through love and music. I need a tissue...it was beautiful.

Judd: Sure, it's a good story—for something other than a Kung-Fu movie. I want fighting, fighting and more fighting. I don't want in-depth story. I don't want sappy scenes showing the growth of a character. I want to see someone getting their ass handed to them. I want to see broken noses, arms, legs, ribs, and jaws. I don't want to see some man-boy eating ice cream for the first time. It wasn't the movie I thought it was going to be, and it certainly wasn't the movie I wanted.

Swanner: That's what I thought about *Madagascar*. I'm not really sure what I was expecting—I just know that what I saw wasn't it.

Judd: I liked *Madagascar*, but it does have some major problems. My biggest complaint is Chris Rock. I like Chris Rock. I think he's funny. But I found myself wanting to puncture my own eardrums after listening to his godawful voice for an hour and 20 minutes.

Swanner: Ben Stiller was my problem here. Maybe it was just his character, but I was just waiting for it to end. I loved the penguins and the lemurs. I liked Chris Rock's zebra and the rest of them but Stiller's lion was grating my freakin' nerves. I also thought they left New York too soon. I'm just going to watch *Shrek* again and forget about *Madagascar*.

Judd: Ben Stiller didn't bother me at all. I like Stiller's work—his smart work, not his cheap throwaway movies. Chris Rock's zebra had me tense by the end of the film. Ugh, that voice. I thought the penguins and the lemurs were hilarious. As I already mentioned, I liked the film, I thought overall the whole thing was entertaining—definitely a film to be enjoyed under the influence of your drug of choice. But Chris Rock's voice? Like nails on a chalkboard.

Swanner: Two movies come to DVD this week, *The Aviator* and *Team America*. I hear they added portions of the puppet sex scene that the MPAA made them remove for an R-rating. What I was told is that they are a golden shower and a pooping scene. I can't wait to see it. I didn't really care for the overall film but I did like most of it and let's face it, they made a full-length marionette movie. You got give the guys credit for that. *The Aviator* was my favorite film from this year's Oscar nominated films. I thought Leonardo DeCaprio was exceptional and I really enjoyed the look back at early Hollywood. Did you ever see *Are We There Yet?*

Judd: *Team America* was a cheap laugh. I enjoyed it while it



By
BRIAN JUDD
MGW STAFF

SWANNER

Madagascar ▼▼1/2

Sharks 3D ▼

Monster-in-Law ▼▼▼

Kicking and Screaming ▼1/2

Unleashed ▼▼▼

The Aviator ▼▼▼▼

Team America ▼▼

Are We There Yet? (avoided)

JUDD

Madagascar ▼▼▼

Kicking and Screaming ▼

Unleashed ▼▼

The Aviator ▼▼▼▼

Team America ▼▼

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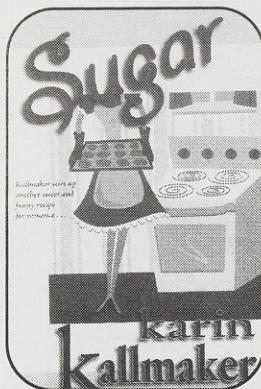
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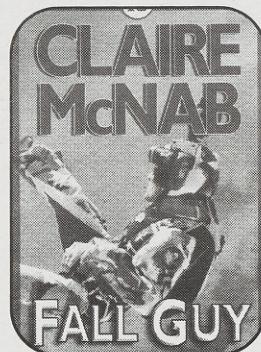


Sugar
Written By: Karin Kallmaker
Paperback: 209 pages
Publisher: Bella Books
ISBN: 1594930015

"Sugar" is a literary snack as delectable as the fabulous desserts created by struggling - and, sadly, single- Seattle chef Sugar Sorenson. Sugar Sorenson's life has just gone up in flames...literally. Struggling to make ends meet, Sugar has invested everything into Cake Dreams by Sugar with hopes of becoming the most sought-after designer of event desserts in Seattle. Working - and baking - night and day to perfect her business and her chances of winning a large bake-off prize, she's not prepared for disaster. Within a few hours she's got no place to live and no business, not even a bag of flour or a measuring cup. Support arrives in the form of an empathetic Victim's Advocate social worker named Tree, a hunky, charming firefighter named Charlie, and a dynamic, ambitious local TV producer. She's Emily, and the first of the trio to make a serious play for Sugar in the morning, Sugar in the evening, and Sugar in the afternoon. After

After years as a single lesbian all this attention has Sugar's head spinning.

years as a single lesbian who couldn't get a heartbeat from any woman anywhere, all this attention has Sugar's head spinning. Forced to live with her ailing, homophobic grandmother, she has no idea how she'll get to know any of these new women in her life. They all offer changed circumstances, stability and a hope at forever. But which one will she choose? ▼



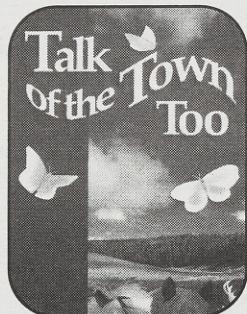
Fall Guy: A Carol Ashton Mystery
Written By: Claire McNab
Paperback: 181 pages
Publisher: Bella Books
ISBN: 1931513775

For most people, to know Milton Ryce is to loathe him. Now in his mid-forties, the practical joker has never outgrown the adolescent behavior that amused him so much as a teenager.

Embarrassing others has been his favorite past time, and he delights in coming up with elaborate schemes for setting up his 'friends' as fall guys. Extremely generous with his money, Milton has bought influence in high places and a circle of well-connected friends and business acquaintances.

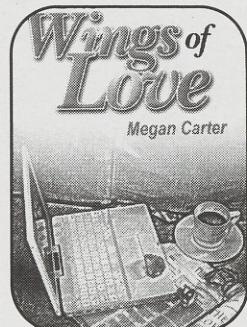
Embarrassing others has been his favorite past time, and he delights in coming up with elaborate schemes for setting up his 'friends' as fall guys. Extremely generous with his money, Milton has bought influence in high places and a circle of well-connected friends and business acquaintances. So when he plunges to his death while sky diving, no one seems particularly surprised to find that he was murdered. Detective Inspector Carol Ashton has too many suspects - a list that includes family members positively jostling for the top position. But perhaps this is another smokescreen... is the murderer setting someone up to be the ultimate fall guy? And apart from the pressure to solve this high-profile case, Carol finds herself at a crossroads in her personal life as she realizes decisions she makes now will irrevocably change her future.

A bit on the lighter side than the description. ▼



Talk Of The Town, Too.
Paperback: 181 pages
Publisher: Bella Books
ISBN: 1931513775

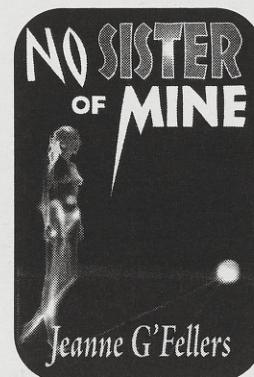
Welcome back to the world of Gigi, Mallory and the rest of the sun-baked gang from "Talk of the Town." In this sequel to the wildly popular "Talk of the Town" readers are reintroduced to the characters in this ongoing contemporary saga. Has Dr. Kohlrabi helped Gigi learn her lesson? Has Alex really let go of her love for Gigi and is she really ready to move on to a life with Taylor? Has Mallory finally given up her pajamas for good and has she found satisfaction in the loving arms of Del? "Talk of the Town Too" answers these and many more questions. "Talk of the Town Too" is the second in a series of books about the contemporary lives of this wild and fun-loving group of friends. ▼



On The Wings Of Love
Written By: Megan Carter
Paperback: 263 pages
Publisher: Bella Books
ISBN: 1594930279

Stacie Gillete's dreams are almost as big as her ego. At 27, she is beginning to see a moderate amount of success as a reporter for the small but prestigious Austin, Texas newspaper that she works for. After a series of successful news articles brings her newfound triumph and attention, Stacie begins to take herself far too seriously. Then she blows

one deadline too many, and her editor decides to give her a final warning... get an interview with bestselling romance author Cheryl Wright- or else. When Stacie blows the interview, and soon finds that both her personal and professional lives are spinning out of control. And to make things worse, she's about to betray her best friend Brenda and finds herself alone and without the career she's taken for granted. Will Stacie figure out that there's more to life than the glitz and sensationalism that she craves? Will her best friend ever forgive her? And will she ever make amends with the enigmatic Cheryl Wright... ▼



No Sister of Mine
Paperback: 283 pages
Publisher: Bella Books
ISBN: 1594930171

LaRenna Belsas had always dreamed of the Kimshee lifestyle. These silent serving sisters of the Taelach military were known as much for their reckless mannerisms as they were honored for the dangers they faced bringing Taelach daughters to their raisers. LaRenna looked forward to taking her place among them, even though it meant an apprenticeship under an experienced Kimshee. Or would it? "No Sister of Mine" is the first entry in a series of lesbian Science Fiction novels set in a world where humans are nothing more than a genetic trace. But that trace has left its mark- namely a race of telepathic women who must fight to coexist with a patriarchal humanoid society who wishes nothing more than the eradication of its "white witch" cousins. ▼

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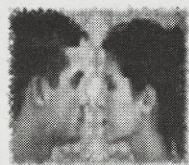
LOVE SPEAKS HER NAME

Laura DeHart Young

Love Speaks Her Name
By Laura DeHart Young
Paperback: 170 pages
Publisher: Bella Books
ISBN: 1594930023

Young successfully captures the intensity of relationships and strikes a nerve with the reader. Lesbian Review of Books, Young's plots are depicted with authenticity of detail. The author is able to build up appropriate tension. Young delivers a quality story by intertwining the details of the mission with the reluctant romance. ▼

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Domestic Partners Rights & Responsibilities

By
SHIRA DAVIDA
GOLDBERG
MGW STAFF



Mary K. Stroube
"Domestic Partnership In California I Do ... Don't I?"
ISBN 0-9765008-0-9

With current decisions pending, the issue of domestic partnership rages on. Same-sexed partners are not privy to be solely concerned with the merriment of floral arrangements and RSVPs from guests. Lesbian and gay unions require strategic planning as well as the legal foresight to protect each other and themselves in the event the domestic partnership doesn't last.

Although the first domestic partner law was signed in California in 1999, the struggle for same-sex union wages on.

Attorney and author Mary Kearny Stroube, M.S., J.D. wrote the book, *I Do...Don't I?* published this year, for couples and professionals who want to learn about California's new domestic partner law and about its social and practical implications. The book examines the ins and outs and the ultimate confusion regarding the immediate and long-term ramifications for those seeking domestic partnership bliss.

Entitled, *Domestic Partnership In California I Do ... Don't I?* Stroube touches on a broad array of topics associated with domestic partnership. An esteemed LGBTI rights activist and community leader she shows appreciation for the difficulties of same-sex unions and facilitates much needed sensitivity regarding these unions along with their legal rights and moral responsibilities.

The book is written in a personal vein as well as a professional capacity succeeds in clarifying some of the inherent complexities that surround current trends in statutes and impositions on the Federal level. As gays and lesbians continue the struggle, fight homophobia and move towards equality through legislation, the responsibilities that are part and parcel of a state law in

conflict with federal law are not yet known.

To unravel the perplexity that currently surrounds the laws, while addressing familiar concerns, how the laws are affecting lesbian and gay unions, is quite overwhelming. Addressing as many issues as she has, it is an achievement on her part as she tackles each dimension. Trying to keep up with the backlash and appellate decisions, state verses federal inconsistencies while understanding joint trusts and estate planning can make anyone's head spin. Focused on family law and our responsibilities to become more open in our partnerships is essential to progress. For many Gays and Lesbians, the coming out process is life long, from health care benefits to car insurance, every day challenges must be met head on with truth about the other, in this case the same-sexed partner. Strode insightfully provides adequate examples of our past successes and future gains.

She says, "We, as a gay community, have the opportunity to assume the rights and responsibilities to which I personally believe all people are entitled. We can step out—come out—and accept our place at the altar or at the courthouse with all our neighbors. It's going to scare some people, straight and gay alike. It's going to require thought and courage and patience and tolerance. It's going to require education. It's going to require time."

What symbolizes the beauty of a relationship between partners, is an extension of their love, and complied traditions. For those seeking domestic partnership lesbian and gay couple's obligations are not only to each other but to other community members as well. Every victory and its effect impact the entire community and the bias that exists within the current laws.

We must use every opportunity to emphasize the importance and significance of the struggle for justice and equality while helping others to become more active and aware, to take pride in the courage and vigilance that LGBT's exhibit.

In this historical and present-day struggle against inequality it's a seemingly overwhelming proposition that makes most of us

resistant to enter into. This is the reason that she found the need to help those who just don't know where to even begin. This effort toward equality is not unlike the civil rights movement, where every move forward needs to be fought for, understood, and finally placed into law. What will be more fruitful? Such sentiment is echoed throughout the community.

Stroube's writing includes a humanism not always associated with attorneys, law or with legal jargon. This makes the book less daunting, especially for those not as well versed in current law as she. She has a propensity to include wit and to advise in a clear and concise manner: she tackles each obstacle one at a time, exemplifying to the reader that personal involvement should not be so far removed as Lesbian and Gay partnership's equality.

Marsha Nohl, MFT, Executive Director, A.F.T.E.R. Counseling Services had this to say. "I would have not have thought of a legal venue as a coming out experience, but the experience clearly cannot be avoided. Mary Stroube recognizes that this law will require greater openness which will contribute to good mental health for us all. Thank you, Mary. Your book is a public service."

It may seem to most of us in the LGBTI community that the only ones who are truly aware of the laws regarding California's new domestic partnership law AB 205 passed on January 1, 2005 are the lobbyists, the legislature and President Bush, but that is ever changing. Our rights and responsibilities of becoming domestic partners is a labyrinth of mysticism and confusion of Kabalistic proportions. With the current laws shifting in and out of favor it is almost impossible to know exactly what rights we have and what domestic partnership is really all about. Frankly, it is exhausting: estate transfers, insurance benefits, and trusts are just a few of the hundreds of impediments that weigh heavily on such a momentous and supposedly blissful occasion.

Many of the day-to-day and long-term effects of domestic partnership and obstacles imposed under current law lie in ambiguity. Some of these critical life altering aspects, such as

property transfers and adoption of recognized domestic partners are areas that are either federally regulated or are determined on state and local levels, resulting in further incomprehension. These matters are further obscured by different interpretation, pending decisions, recently enacted legislation, and persistent law suits. Despite the ongoing appellate court rulings and continued controversy the majority of Americans that are affected remain in the dark.

LGBT parents and partners are well aware of the expressions, the significance and purpose of marriage. That is why we want it.

That is why we continue to fight

for it. As noble as it may seem, federal mandates leave us no other choice. Our roles should not be in dispute, but the facts remain, they are. With all the active litigation, same-sex couples that are seeking domestic partnership and marriage are replete with discord, frustration and uncertainty. Ignorance in this case is far from blissful. In order to ascertain rights that should be inalienable, unlike heterosexual unions; we must make informed decisions, and stay abreast of the developments and counter the inevitable backlash, in unison while moving incremental steps forward. Fear and lack of knowledge are not options for these cutting edge decisions. These are not mere opinions, but current



Mary K. Stroube, the author of Domestic Partnership In California I Do ... Don't I?

law.

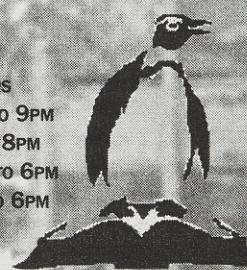
Stroube's, "Domestic Partnership In California I Do ... Don't I?" discusses the social and political implications of exercising these new rights and responsibilities that gays, lesbians and professions must delve into in order to be equally recognized under law in a humorous yet explorative fashion. ▼

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To learn more about LGBTI groups that do advocacy work in support of the LGBTI community, you may visit the following web sites:
LambdaLetters.org
[Marriage Equality California](http://marriagequalityca.org)
marriagequalityca.org

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On the HIV front...

By
SONYA COX
MGW STAFF



FIRST ATTEMPT AT SINGLE-PILL HIV REGIMEN FAILS

Drug manufacturer Gilead Sciences has announced that preliminary results from a bio-equivalency study of a fixed-dose pill combining Gilead's drug Truvada with Bristol-Myers Squibb's treatment Sustiva show this first attempt to combine the drugs has failed. The formulation resulted in levels of Sustiva in the bloodstream below that seen when dosing Sustiva separately, Gilead officials say.

The two pharmaceutical giants announced in December the first effort of two competing companies coming together to create a one-pill, once-daily, three-drug HIV treatment by combining Gilead's Truvada (a combo which contains two drugs, Viread and Emtriva) and Bristol-Myers, Sustiva. The resulting combination pill would have been the simplest triple-drug regimen ever available in the United States. The companies, in announcing the joint effort, had said they hoped to have an effective combination pill developed and submitted to the Food & Drug Administration for approval by the end of 2005.

Gilead says it is going to begin again with another formulation.

ROCHE TO STOP SELLING PI SAQUINAVIR

The Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche has announced it plans to stop selling its protease inhibitor Fortovase -- known generically as Saquinavir -- in early 2006 because of decreased demand for the drug, and increased demand for the newer formulation of Saquinavir, called Invirase. A regimen of Invirase uses fewer pills than Fortovase, does not require refrigeration as Fortovase does, and is better tolerated by the digestive system.

Roche said the decision to stop selling Fortovase is not a result of concerns about safety or effec-

tiveness. "The Fortovase formulation no longer meets the demands of convenience and tolerability expected today," said Roche's vice-president of virology and HIV, adding, "In keeping with our research focus to optimize delivery of current therapies and develop novel treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS, we have determined that it is time to focus our resources on the availability of Invirase, which offers significant improvements in convenience and gastro-intestinal tolerance."

The company has taken great care, he says, to plan the discontinuation in such a manner as to allow people with HIV and their physicians adequate time to consider and/or transition to Invirase.

FDA RECOMMENDS NEW PI TIPRANAVIR

Tipranavir, specifically for drug-resistant HIV, has received the backing of a Food & Drug Administration panel despite concerns about its safety. If approved, Tipranavir (to be sold under the brand name Aptivus) would be used in combination with Abbott's PI Norvir/Ritonavir and possibly other drugs as well. The protease inhibitor is designed to block HIV replication.

The panel's vote recommends that the agency heads approve the drug, and in most cases the

"Senators in the Nation's Capital recently heard from experts about the threat posed by HIV and AIDS to older Americans. A Centers for Disease Control expert told the Senate Special Committee on Aging that the number of people over 50 living with HIV and AIDS is growing sharply."

panel's recommendation leads to approval. While panel members expressed concern about possible liver damage and adverse reactions if combined with other commonly used meds such as cholesterol and diabetes drugs, and an increased incidence of rash in women with HIV, the panel nonetheless voted for recommendation based on the urgent need for new treatments for people

who no longer respond to their current regimen of drugs.

The panel noted that, for trial participants also being treated with the fusion inhibitor Fuzeon, the treatment effect of the Tipranavir combinations was significantly greater.

TROJAN WANTS PRIME-TIME ADS

Makers of Trojan condoms are seeking to advertise their product on prime-time television within the next month or so, saying its new ad campaign is appropriate for prime time because it stresses health issues such as HIV.

The current policy is to run condom ads only late at night and only if an ad "speaks to the health issue." Prime-time condom ads are not illegal -- they have just never been run. The networks, however, routinely run ads for products such as Viagra, Levitra, and female contraceptives during prime time. Trojan's CEO says the new ad campaign would grab the attention of people who do not think they need to use condoms, and hopefully shock them into safer practices.

MEDICAL TOPICS DISCUSSED ON NEW SITE

Sue Strong, registered nurse and former executive director of CARES, has started a new venture called "A Nurse at Your Side," an on-line outreach that contains valuable information and advice. Visit her web site to learn how to do research on your particular medical condition, and get ideas on how to put together a living will and medical decision document.

Although some time has passed and media attention has moved on, says Strong, the lessons we learned as we watched the very public, very tragic circumstances of Terri Schiavo's death unfold must be remembered. Are you prepared should a similar situation happen in your life? Could you -- or someone you love -- become the next Terri Schiavo? There are simple steps that you can take to

be prepared for catastrophic health events, and A Nurse at Your Side has the information you need to get this important personal work done. anurseatyour-side.com/more_tips.php.

A GROWING THREAT AMONG OLDER AMERICANS

Senators in the Nation's Capital recently heard from experts about the threat posed by HIV and AIDS to older Americans. A Centers for Disease Control expert told the Senate Special Committee on Aging that the number of people over 50 living with HIV and AIDS is growing sharply.

A long-term care coordinator from New Jersey testified that some researchers are calling nursing homes "the new breeding ground for AIDS" and that many people are contracting the disease while in long-term care. She says at a minimum there's a need for simple literature about HIV and AIDS that's geared toward older people.

STD RATES STILL HIGH IN S.F.

A recent Department of Public Health report on sexually transmitted diseases says that the incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhea in San Francisco was the highest in the nation during 2004, with young people particularly vulnerable. Since 2003, rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and early syphilis have risen despite education, Internet outreach, and medical treatment in jails and specialty clinics.

A spokesperson for the city's Adolescent Health Working Group says that budget cuts have trimmed services, while the emphasis on abstinence has caused many health practitioners to avoid frank talk about sex and the protective value of condoms. Advertising that promotes youthful sexuality is another factor.

Only one public high school in the city has an on-campus health clinic where youth can be tested. However, the Department of Public Health has STD information and downloadable testing kits available at its City Clinic web site. ▼

In Loving Memory of friends lost in May

June 1985: Dan Rundle
June 1987: Jim Ward Glen Miller Joseph Runzo
June 1988: Ken Ross Albert Frankie Cook
June 1989: Gary Largent James Patrick Lawrence
Thomas Williams William Waller Schon Michaels Marc Ellis
June 1990: Tim Warford Larry Miller David Arlen Lewis
June 1991: Tim Dollson Joanne Ruiz Greg Cheever Dale Henry
June 1992: Michael Bryant Glen Humfleet Eloy Garcia John Musgrave Bart Heck Craig Mitchell
June 1993: David Kessner Joe McDonald Kirk Rader Eugene Harvey Donald Behnken Duane A. Russell Joe Pitcher, Jr.
June 1994: Nikki (Porter) Hiatt-Hamilton Arlis Zimmerman Dave Crowley Guillermo Pena Dennis Tesch Rick Tolman Ricky Watson Verne Oliver Letha Knox Michael Jackson Roger Harlow Rubin "Titoo" Vigil
Thomas E. Stevenson Steven Mabs
June 1995: David V. Nystrom Marcus M. David C. Jack R. Irene B. Gary Simon
June 1996: Larry Bell Bill Spencer Willie A. Charles Evans
June 1997: Bob Griffith
June 1998: Frank "Cisco" Ortiz Dore Tanner
June 1999: Danny Freer (Diamond) David C. Jay
June 2002: Joe Lopez
June 2004: Theodore "Theo" Marefos
When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. To add the names of loved ones to MGW's remembrance column, call 737-0309

Nor Cal AIDS Challenge Closing Ceremonies

By JIM McCANN

PHOTOS BY CURTIS HAGEN/MGW STAFF



Well we made it!! 380 miles in 4 days and we raised over \$70,000 for HIV/AIDS services right here in the Sacramento Valley. The primary beneficiaries are CARES, Breaking Barriers, and the AIDS Housing Alliance. We started out early on the morning of May 18 from Discovery Park, each of us not sure of what lay ahead, but our intentions, desires, and training reassured us. We started out as individuals but would soon become friends and then become our own little 'biking family'. Our destination today was Gridley, CA some 87 miles away. For most of us the thought of cycling 87 miles was a foreign concept back in January. But through training, and participating in the sponsored training rides, we no longer considered it something that was unattainable, but something that we could comfortably do. With rest stops every 15-20 miles we made it to lunch and then to the fairgrounds in Gridley where we would camp for the

night. We were beginning to learn that this ride would be about angels and heroes. The angels that day were the members of local churches that opened up their facilities for us to rest and refuel during the day. The hero that day was our bike technician who went over every bike that night to ensure that it was clean, oiled, and safe to ride.

The next day found us heading for Red Bluff. This was our longest day, some 113 miles. Today's route offered 2 options: the normal route and a hill-climbing route. For most of us this would be the longest number of miles that we had ridden. Today would be a day about riding with and getting to know new people. We discovered our angels of the roadway were the Sisters of Scota on their motorcycles that protected us out on the road, and our crew that staffed and stocked the rest stops. They recharged our spirits, replenished our nourishment needs, and sent us on our way to the next rest stop and

finally camp. We were all heroes that day for finishing 113 miles. That night we shared our reasons for doing the ride. Reasons varied from having lost friends to AIDS, to having HIV, to one rider who out of a pure act of selflessness to humankind thought this would be a good cause even though she did not know anyone with HIV/AIDS or anyone that passed on because of AIDS.

Day three found us heading back towards Sacramento. Our destination was Colusa CA. It was 100 miles away, but the wind was at our back, it was downhill and we were riding with our friends. Life was good. We rode through beautiful farmland and orchards, through Chico and eventually into Colusa. This would be our last night together and we embraced the remaining time we had together with our new 'biking family'.

Day four and we're heading home. Today was only 85 miles (by now we considered this a short day). Again a day given to

us by the angels. Mid 70's, clear skies, light wind at our back (perfect cycling weather) and the route was downhill. We meandered through orchards, farmland, and along the Sacramento River. We found our way through Woodland, Davis, and finally to the steps of the Capital in Sacramento. Family, friends, and loved ones greeted us as we rode to the finish. Bittersweet feelings swept through all of us, glad that it was over, but sad that we would say 'see you later' to our new friends. The ride proved to be a one of those lifetime experiences that changed us all. We had raised an incredible amount of money for well need HIV/AIDS services here in Sacramento and we had made friends that we shared a lifetime experience with.

Would I do it again? Let's just say "See you in 2006"! If you're interested in riding or crewing the



Nor Cal AIDS Challenge next year, visit www.norcalaidschallenge.org. We'll have information on 2006 there within the next month. ▼



Monarchs Go Young, Tough, & International

By PAT HEWITT
MGW STAFF

MONARCHS GO YOUNG, TOUGH, & INTERNATIONAL

Starting with management's unwillingness to re-sign Monarchs veteran and now free-agent Ruthie Bolton, and the subsequent signing of eight new Monarchs—including China's two best women players, it's become easier to list the returning personnel than the newbies.

Familiar faces include the indefatigable Yolanda Griffith, guard Kara Lawson, (temporarily leaving behind her ESPN commentator status), veteran point guard Ticha Penicheiro, livewire DeMya Walker, and the surprisingly improved Hamchetou Maiga.

Faced with the necessity of reducing the post-camp roster to 11 active players and two injured reserves prior to the May 15th

game against the Phoenix Mercury, the Monarchs first bid adieu to the training camp and pre-season survivors, including camp-invitee Anne O'Neil, the first to go, followed by Giuliana Mendiola and Australian Hollie Grima. The final casualty was last season's Monarch forward Chantelle Anderson, originally brought on board as backup for iron woman Yolanda Griffith. Plagued by injuries last season, Anderson played limited minutes pre-season this year, and was the last player to be cut by management.

Coach Whizenant is quoted as saying that with Yolanda apparently resistant to injury, Anderson "deserved to play on a team where she would be better utilized".

Although personnel cuts are painful for both player and management, no one could complain that they didn't get a good look. During the game against the Chinese National team, the entire bench had significant minutes on the boards, sometimes used in different combinations, and regu-

larly rotated in and out of the game. When the cuts were announced after the two exhibition games, no one who watched those two games was surprised

WHAT DO FANS HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO?

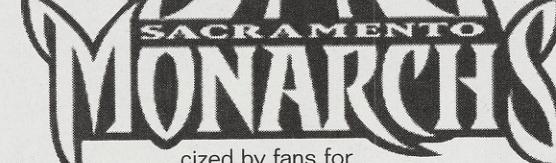
For one thing, be prepared to see a lot more 3-pointers. The team finally is rich in peripheral shooters, including Stanford stand-out Nicole Powell, who joined Kara Lawson in hitting two 3's apiece against Phoenix, with Miao Li jie adding another from near NBA distance.

And the team's ability to cut through traffic and score inside—and this with little practice time together—was impressive. Maiga, still prone to foul on the way in, is showing a new willingness to shoot and put points up when she does. Newcomer Sui Fei Fei, currently on injured reserve, has demonstrated a Steve Nash-like ability to snake

her way through the defense and appear under the basket for a quick lay-in.

Then, there's Ticha. Get ready this season for a new, improved shooter in

Sacramento's flashy point-guard. Frequently criti-



cized by fans for

choosing to pass when she seemed to be in a good position to shoot, Ticha's European experience this year seems to have provided her with the confidence to take the occasional risk and shoot when she is in the clear, rather than looking to pass to a teammate for the shot.

Finally, there's the matter of rebounding and hustle. Her name is Erin Buescher.

WHO IS ERIN BUESCHER?

Even coach Whizenant asked that question when negotiating over the trade of Tangela Smith to Charlotte in exchange for a 2006 first round draft choice.

Whizenant is quoted as saying that he "played the usual trading game, and said, 'We're trading a known star player here. We ought to get something more than a draft choice for her'". When Charlotte

offered to throw in Erin Buescher to sweeten the deal, it was only when he reviewed film footage on the power guard that he began to appreciate what he'd been offered. Buescher survived the cut, and the press and pre-season fans are raving over her hustle and ability to see the court and be in the right place almost before she could be expected to be. ▼

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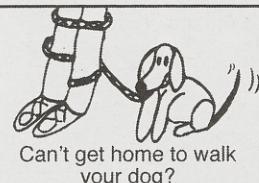
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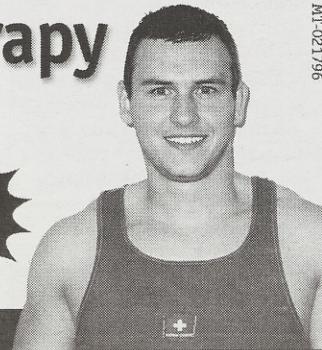
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BARBARA EVANS, MFC# 39825
 2620 J ST., 442-3556

BRUCE GUNN, MFCC #M19480:
 418 ALHAMBRA BLVD., 443-7171

THRIFT STORES

MCC OUT OF THE CLOSET THRIFT STORE: 3230 BROADWAY, 454-5019

SUTTER HOSPICE/ROSEVILLE: 2120 HARDING BLVD., 783-5509

TRANSLATORS

ACCESS LANGUAGE CONNECTION: 1617 20TH ST, 541-2300

VETERINARIANS

ANIMAL HOUSECALL: DR. NANCY WEAGLY, 456-0967

WATT AVE. PET HOSPITAL: 3321 WATT AVE., 482-4084

Lobbying 101...**Continued from page 12**

writing party could have a big impact.

Legislators are really getting hammered by the religious right over the LGBTI bills we support. That scares legislators. So we need to counter their input with letters from good religious leaders. If you attend a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque, consider asking your clergy person to write a letter. If your congregation or clergy member is at all supportive of our issues your pastor would probably be glad to write a letter of support.

Letters from supportive clergy can be powerful antidotes to the hateful mail from the religious right. Letters from clergy should be addressed to the author of the bill (see the list above for authors) and should be sent to the address shown above.

Many churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques have committees that deal with social justice issues. The committees are made up of members of the congregation. Because the committees were established to deal with these issues, they are often supportive of our issues. Often they just need to be made aware of the bills out there and told how they can help.

For example, I have been going to the Ministry in Action Commission, of St. Mark's United Methodist Church here in Sacramento. Each month I bring them a list of four bills and ask their support of opposition. I also bring simple letters for them to send to legislators in the name of their Commission. So far the Commission has taken positions on 14 bills. In each case they sent a brief letter to the bill's author stating their position on

the bill. If you persuade a committee in your congregation to support a bill have them send a letter to the bill's author at the above address.

Many people belong to political clubs, unions, professional associations, chambers of commerce, and similar groups. Input from these groups would be very helpful as well. These groups generally are very respected by elected officials. Often they have special influence with elected officials. So their support could be extremely helpful. Does it seem scary to approach them? It shouldn't be. They are just ordinary people like you and me.

Some you already know definitely will not support us. Don't bother with them. But, if you know the organization generally supports liberal causes, the PTA for example, give it a try. Often just a simple explanation of why you care about the bill will persuade them to support or oppose it.

The bottom line is this. The bills we support, like AB 19, would produce monumental changes in our society. Legislators generally prefer not to make major changes. The thing that usually persuades them to do so is massive support from their constituents. Our Community has two full time lobbying groups on behalf of our community; Equality California and the Lambda Letters Project. Both groups do great work. But the thing that really moves the mountain is massive input to legislators from people like you.

So if you really want to get full recognition of your rights I suggest you try a little of the lobbying described above. ▼

Boyce Hinman is Chief Lobbyist for the Lambda Letters Project

FREE SALSA LESSONS AT FACES STARTING IN MAY

Have you ever wished you could get up on the dance floor, dance to Salsa music, and look good at it? Do you think you have two left feet and no sense of rhythm? Do you find yourself rejecting offers to dance or not asking anyone to dance because you don't know the steps? Come make new friends and learn the art of dance in a safe, friendly, environment open to all! Don't wait another moment to enjoy the beauty of Mambo!

Contact Us at (916) 308-2027 or Email: Latineyes32@yahoo.com



***Every Tuesday before Latin Night, 8-8:45pm lesson**
Then practice till 9:30pm.

JUNE 3, 2005

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, PARADIGM (CD RELEASE 0), LARISA BYRSKE, OUT OF PLACE, 5 P.M. - 9 P.M., ADMISSION IS FREE, CESAR CHAVEZ PLAZA 10TH AND J STREETS, FOR DETAILS CALL (916) 442-2500 OR VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNSAC.ORG

JUNE 4, 2005

14TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY BAND FESTIVAL, 11 A.M. - 7 P.M., FREE ADMISSION, CARMICHAEL PARK BAND SHELL 5750 GRANT AVENUE, CARMICHAEL. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CARMICHAEL RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT AT (916) 485-5322

SELL & SWAP, TOWE AUTO MUSEUM, FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M., TOWE AUTO MUSEUM, 2200 FRONT STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95818, (916) 442-6802

HONORED ELTERS DAY, CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS CELEBRATE NATIVE CALIFORNIAN ELTERS, ADMISSION IS FREE, THE CALIFORNIA STATE INDIAN MUSEUM 2618 K STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA, FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (916) 324-0971

JUNE 10, 2005

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, MUMBO GUMBO, RICHARD MARCH, 5 P.M. - 9 P.M., ADMISSION IS FREE, CESAR CHAVEZ PLAZA 10TH AND J STREETS, FOR DETAILS CALL (916) 442-2500 OR VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNSAC.ORG

JUNE 11, 2005

PRIDE PARADE, 10AM, 13TH & N STREETS, FREE
PRIDE FAIR, 10AM, SOUTHSIDE PARK, \$7
 "THE PRESSURE'S ON" FOOD PRESERVATION PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION, THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS, 10:00 A.M. - NOON, FREE, SACRAMENTO COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE, 4145 BRANCH CENTER ROAD, SACRAMENTO, FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (916) 875-6913

JUNE 17, 2005

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, LOW FLYING OWLS, THE PROLES (CD RELEASE), SPIDER SILK DRESS, 5 P.M. - 9 P.M., ADMISSION IS FREE, CESAR CHAVEZ PLAZA 10TH AND J STREETS, FOR DETAILS CALL (916) 442-2500 OR VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNSAC.ORG

JUNE 18, 2005

RIVER CITY ROUNDUP CAR & ART SHOW, TOWE AUTO MUSEUM, 10:00 A.M., ADMISSION IS \$5 (INCLUDES CAR SHOW & MUSEUM ENTRANCE), 2200 FRONT STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95818, FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL BRIAN AT (916) 442-6802, WWW.TOWEAUTOMUSEUM.ORG

JUNE 24, 2005

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, THE BEER DAWGS, HELL'S HOUSE BAND, FEATURING MARK CURRY, 5 P.M. - 9 P.M., ADMISSION IS FREE, CESAR CHAVEZ PLAZA 10TH AND J STREETS, FOR DETAILS CALL (916) 442-2500 OR VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNSAC.ORG

JULY 1, 2005

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, JACKPOT, DAVE GLEASON'S WASTED DAYS, SOL PELIGRO, 5 P.M. - 9 P.M., ADMISSION IS FREE, CESAR CHAVEZ PLAZA 10TH AND J STREETS, FOR DETAILS CALL (916) 442-2500 OR VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNSAC.ORG

JULY 8, 2005

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, LAS PESADILLAS, FRANK JORDAN, 5 P.M. - 9 P.M., ADMISSION IS FREE, CESAR CHAVEZ PLAZA 10TH AND J STREETS, FOR DETAILS CALL (916) 442-2500 OR VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNSAC.ORG

JULY 15, 2005

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, THE SNOBS, SUPERMODEL SUICIDE, NEW ROCK MILITIA, ANGORA-MACHINEGUN, 5 P.M. - 9 P.M., ADMISSION IS FREE, CESAR CHAVEZ PLAZA 10TH AND J STREETS, FOR DETAILS CALL (916) 442-2500 OR VISIT WWW.DOWNTOWNSAC.ORG

THE 4TH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL, 15-17 & 23-24, THE MAIN AUDITORIUM OF THE CREST THEATRE, FOR MORE INFORMATION AND COMPLETE LINE-UP VISIT: AFDESACRAMENTO.ORG/FILM-FEST

Hey Sacramento, spare some change?

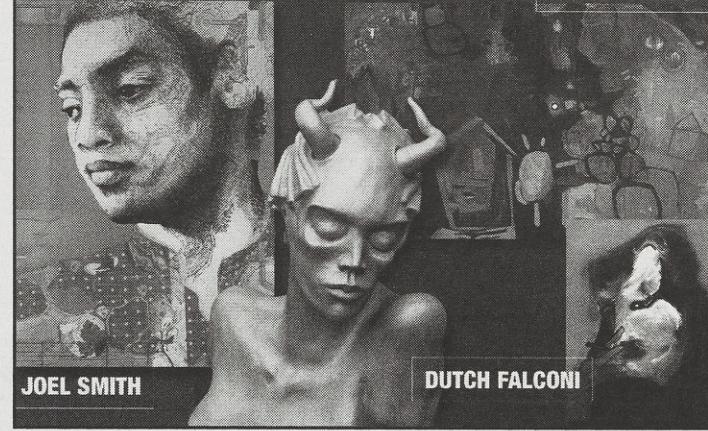
June 11, 6-10pm 2nd Saturday Art Walk at Uptown Studios
July 16, 7:30pm SACRAMENTO KINGS OF DRAG
 tickets \$20, \$30 @ door, available at WWW.SACSISTERHOOD.COM
 The Fabulous Jackie Taylor will Emcee!

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for more info: WWW.UPTOWNSTUDIOSGALLERY.COM
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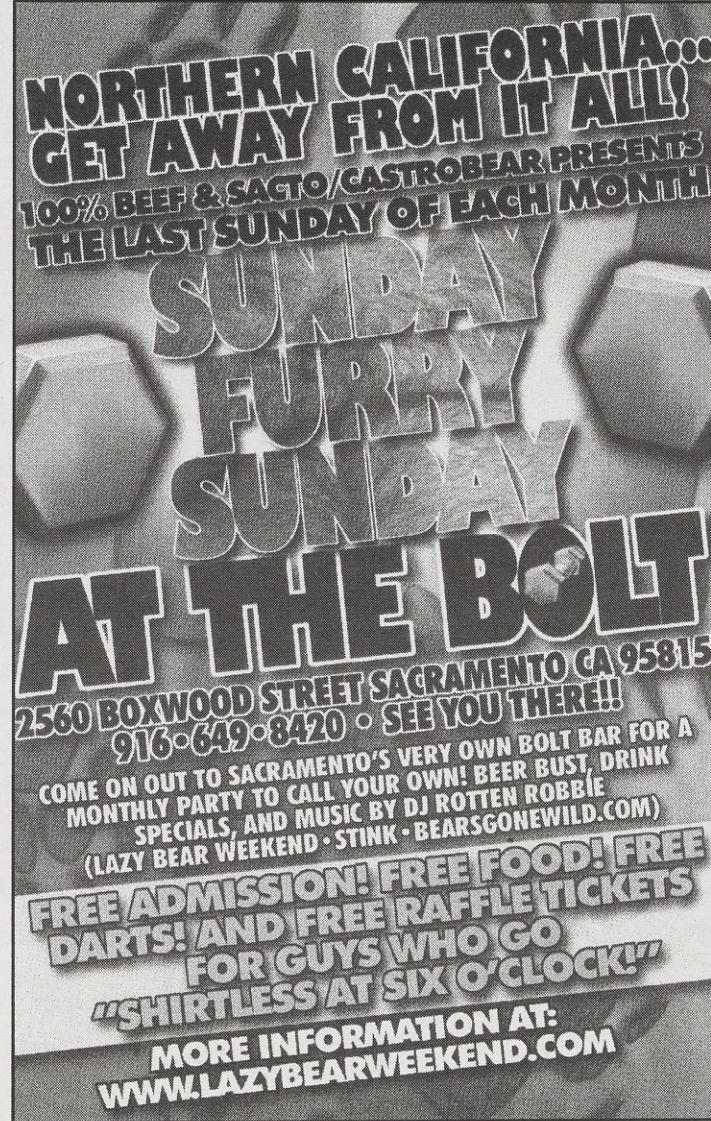
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 A CULTURAL HUB

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JOEL SMITH

DUTCH FALCONI



ART/GALLERIES

CHROMA GALLERY: "FEEL THE COLOR", MAY THRU JUNE 5, 10030 FAIR OAKS BLVD, FAIR OAKS, 956-6020, THECHROMAGALLERY.COM

CROCKER ART MUSEUM: PANDORA'S BOX THE SCULPTURE OF GEORGE HERMS, THRU AUG. 14; MATERIAL DIFFERENCES, ART AND IDENTITY IN AFRICA, THRU JUNE 19; KUNISADA : BOLD MASTER OF JAPANESE PRINTS, THRU JUNE 19; WHITE GOLD: THE KATHY AND RON GILLMEISTER COLLECTION OF EARLY MEISSEN PORCELAIN, APR. 22-THRU SPRING 2006, 216 O ST., 264-5423, CROCKERARTMUSEUM.ORG

DESIGN MUSEUM: RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF THE DESIGN COLLECTION, THRU JUNE 24, 145 WALKER HALL, DAVIS, (530) 752-6150, DESIGNMUSEUM.UCCDAVIS.EDU

EXPLODING HEAD GALLERY: BENJE HEU "NEW WORK" CERAMICS AND MICK SHELDON "FAST

FOOD VIXENS" OIL ON CANVAS ON PANEL AND HAND-COLORED WOODBLOCK PRINTS, 942 T ST., SAC., 442-8424, E-MAIL: EXPLODING@SBGLOBAL.NET

LEGION OF HONOR: WINDOWS FACING EAST: THE JAPANESE INFLUENCE ON EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN PRINTS, THRU APR. 30; ARTWEAR: FASHION AND ANTI-FASHION, THRU OCT. 30; 100 34TH AVE., S.F., 415-750-3614, LEGIONOFHONOR.ORG

VIEW POINT GALLERY: THE SAC. VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC ART CENTER 2005 MEMBER EXHIBIT, THRU MAY 7; DAN BURKHOLDER, THRU JUNE 25, 551 SEQUOIA PACIFIC BLVD, SAC., 441-2341, VIEWPOINTGALLERY.ORG

THEATRE

CALIFORNIA MUSICAL THEATRE, MUSIC CIRCUS SUMMER SEASON, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, JULY 5-17; WEST SIDE STORY, JULY 19-24; ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, AUG. 2-17; CABARET, AUG. 9-14; GREASE, AUG. 16-21; THE KING AND I AUG. 23-28M 1510 J ST., SUITE 200, SAC., 95814 446-5880, CALTHEATRE.COM

CELEBRATIONS ART, MASTER HAROLD & THE BOYS, THRU JUNE 25, 4469 D ST., SAC., 95819, 455-2787 CELEBRATIONARTS.NET

LAMBDA PLAYERS THEATRE, LAST SUNDAY IN JUNE, JUNE 3-JULY 3; CATCH JULY 8-AUG. 6; PARTY, AUG. 12-SEPT. 3; SOMEBODY ELSE'S LIFE, SEPT. 8-9; 2427 17TH ST., SAC., 444-8229, LAMBDAPLAYERS.COM

MAGIC CIRCLE THEATRE, THE GREAT WOLF ROUND-UP, MAY 21-JUNE 18 AT THE ROSEVILLE THEATRE LOCATION, TOWER THEATRE 421 VERNON ST., ROSEVILLE, 782-1777.

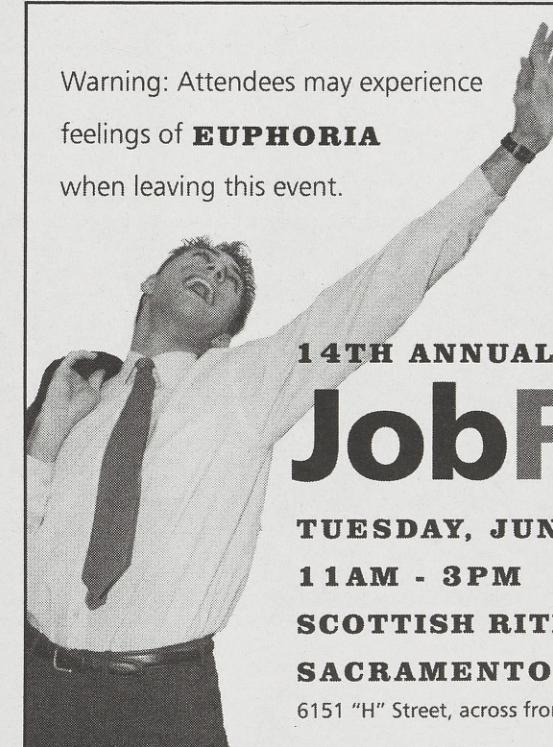
THE NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER, WHOOP-DEE-DOO! THRU JUNE 25; DANGEROUS, AUG. 13-SEPT. 11; CRUCIFIXION, OCT. 8-NOV. 6; AFTER DARK, DEC. 1-31 2006; BURN THIS, 2006 JAN. 21-FEB. 19, 2006; THEATRE DISTRICT, FEB. 12-MARCH 5, 2006; HURA, APRIL 8-MAY 7, 2006; VALHALLA, MAY 20-JUNE 24 2006; 25 VAN NESS AVENUE, LOWER LOBBY, SAN FRANCISCO, 94102 (415) 861-4914

WOODLAND OPERA HOUSE THEATRE COMPANY, PICNIC, THRU JUNE 19; NADINE SALONITES: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF KATE SMITH, MAY 8; CHERYL SANDOVAL RECITAL, MAY 15; BARFOOT IN THE PARK, AUG. 26-SEPT. 18; SHE LOVES ME, OCT. 28-NOVEMBER 20; WAIT UNTIL DARK, JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 12 2006; MAN OF LA MANCHA, MARCH 24-APRIL 23 2006; SLY FOX, MAY 12-JUNE 4, 2006, 340 SECOND ST. PO BOX 1425 WOODLAND, 95776, (530) 666-9617

Warning: Attendees may experience

feelings of **EUPHORIA**

when leaving this event.



14TH ANNUAL JUNE JobFair

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

11 AM - 3 PM

SCOTTISH RITE CENTER
 SACRAMENTO

6151 "H" Street, across from CSU Sacramento

Side effects may also include uncontrollable giggling and dancing in the street. Because with opportunities from top public and private-sector employers at every turn, the June Job Fair is just the shot your career needs.

- Dozens of Employers, 100's of Jobs
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Parade & Fair

GRAND MARSHALS:

Main: Mayor Heather **FARGO**

Activist: Ellen **PONTAC** & Shelley **BAILES** of Yolo County - MECCA

Community: Gary **MILLER** of Robla School Board

Celebrity: Gayiel **VON**

June **11** 2005

See our two page Ad
in this issue of MGW for full details...